

# The Sporting News

1989

## PRO FOOTBALL YEARBOOK

TSN SERIES # 2

DISPLAY UNTIL OCTOBER 5, 1989

PRICE: \$4.95

Martial Arts Helped Make Minnesota's Joey Browner a Lethal Weapon

Can Mouse Davis Help the Lions Restore the Roar?

Previews, Predictions, Rosters, Schedules, 1988 Statistics

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Mike Singletary

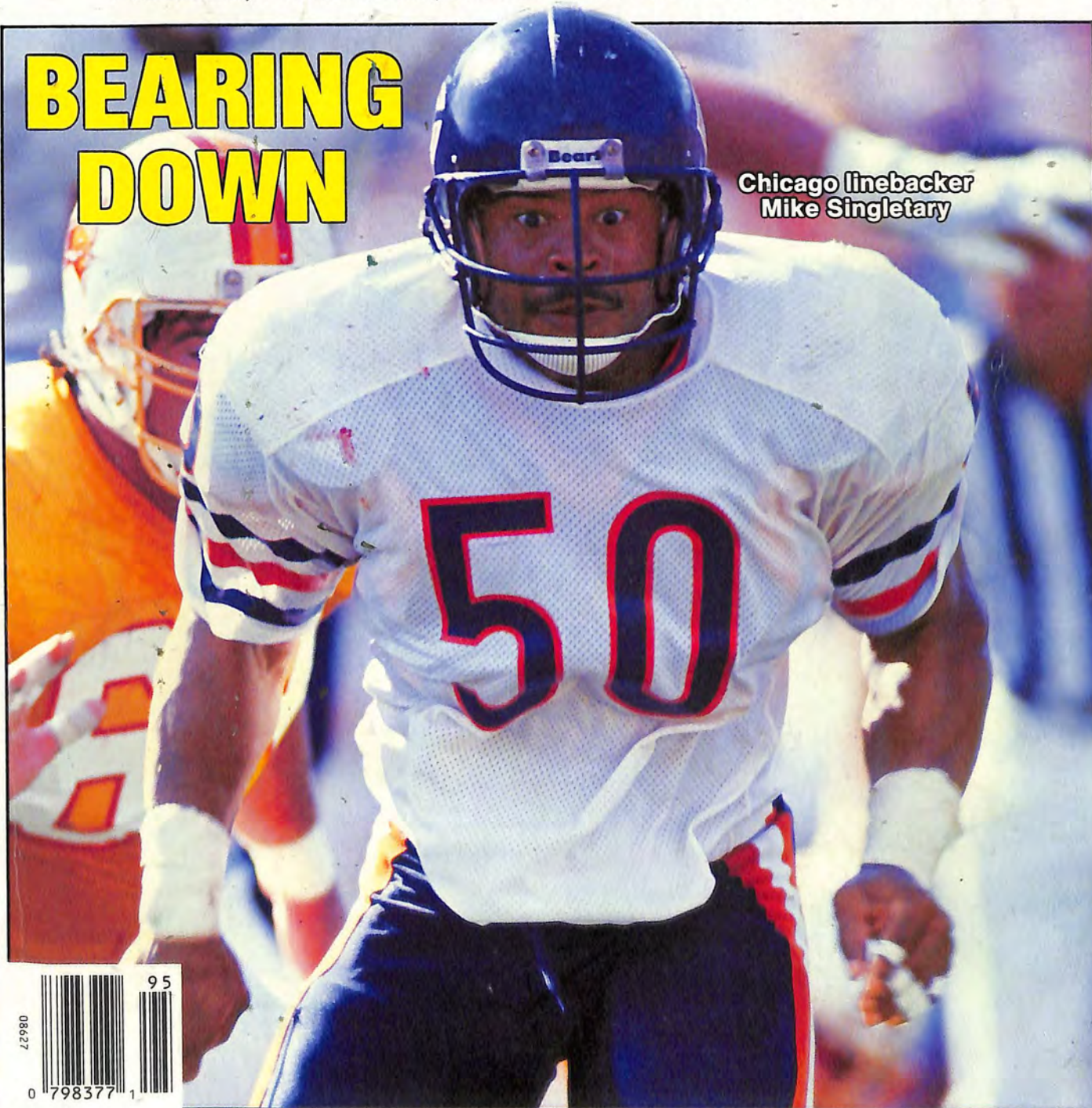
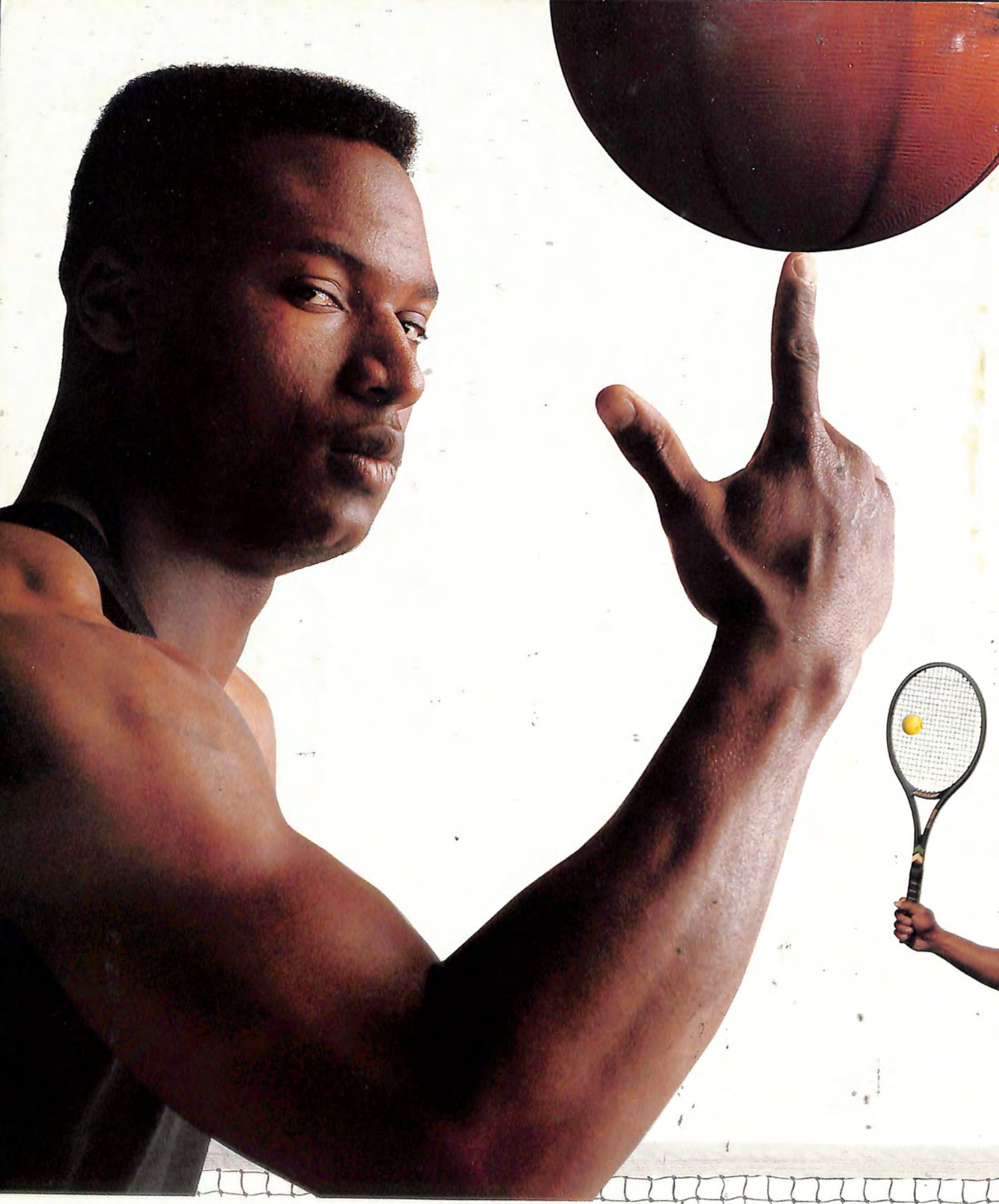


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## 1989 PRO FOOTBALL YEARBOOK

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*Houston's Jerry Glanville*



*Chicago's Mike Singletary*

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# BODY BY CRAIG

## *Roger goes to great pains to stay on top of his game*

By IRA MILLER  
San Francisco Chronicle

It is a quiet, midwinter morning at the home of the San Francisco 49ers in Santa Clara, Calif. The sun is shining and the sky is bright. The pace is slow. The few people who are around are relaxed, happy, content.

"World champion 49ers," the reception-

ist says, smiling, when she answers the telephone. Everyone, it seems, is in a good mood. Even the guard, who in more hectic times protects the inner sanctum from the entreaties of the media and other visitors, has a video game, an airplane flight simulator, displayed on one of his closed-circuit TV monitors.

And why not? They're all still thinking about last year, still reliving the memora-

ble moments, still basking in the glow of the team's third Super Bowl victory.

Everyone, that is, but one veteran half-back. In a nearly deserted locker room, he is getting ready for one of his thrice-weekly sessions in the weight room. For him, there is little time to reflect on past glory, of which there is plenty. There will

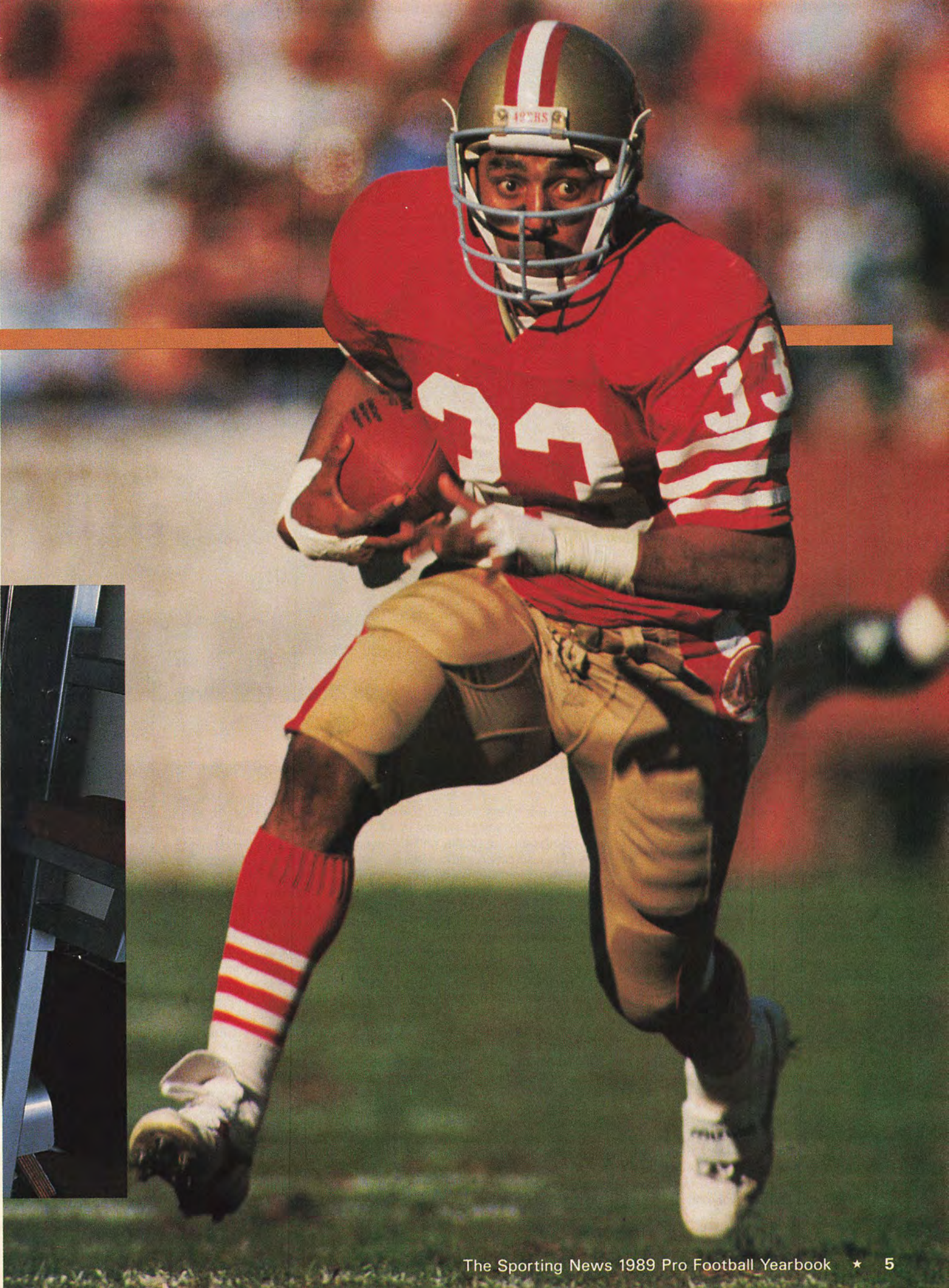
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*Roger Craig, whose off-season regimen includes thrice-weekly sessions in the weight room, pushes his*

*body to the limit so pain won't affect him when the season rolls around.*









*Craig's specialized football conditioning program, devised by himself and orthopedic surgeon/marathoner*

*Arthur Ting (far left), emphasizes endurance running on dirt hills.*

## CRAIG

be time for that in a few years. But not now.

The past means nothing to Roger Craig. He is obsessed with the future. And that means his present is filled with work. Run faster. Lift harder. Diet. Exercise. Run some more. Lift some more. Keep working.

"Right now, I'm climbing this mountain, and I'm not satisfied until I get to the top," said Craig, who ranked third in the National Football League with 1,502 yards rushing in 1988. "I don't want to be so content now after winning the Super Bowl that I won't have any fire coming into this season. I want to keep the fire up, keep it burning, because I want to play (at least four more years), to be a 10-year vet."

"This (1989) is my seventh year, and I have goals for myself. Right now my goals are to be in the Hall of Fame. That's my next step. I've accomplished everything else that I could accomplish. For me to do that, I have to play my rear end off the next three or four years."

Indeed, Craig already has a long list of

achievements. Since he joined the 49ers as a second-round draft pick out of Nebraska in 1983, San Francisco has been in the playoffs every year and won two Super Bowls. He led the 49ers in all-purpose yardage as a rookie and in receptions (71) his second year, when he also scored three touchdowns in San Francisco's Super Bowl triumph over Miami. In 1985 he became the first NFL player ever to surpass 1,000 yards rushing (1,050) and 1,000 yards receiving (1,016) in the same season. He then led the team in rushing and the league in receptions by a running back each of the next two seasons before turning in his All-Pro 1988 campaign.

Yet, for all that, he can't wait for the next game, the next season. The next challenge.

For most of Craig's teammates, next season will come too soon. Before they know it there will be a training camp extended by one week for a trip to Japan, right on the heels of a short off-season filled with banquets and celebrations, including the obligatory junket to the White House. If they are like most other world champions, their egos and bodies will be bloated by the spoils of their success, their minds focused anywhere but on the task at hand in 1989.

Roger Craig won't get caught in that rut.

"I only took two weeks off (to rest) from workouts after the season," Craig said. "I normally take a month off after the season. I'm training right now. I'm in top condition right now. I didn't lose too much of my endurance, so I'll hopefully come into this season in better shape than I was last year."

"If you're well conditioned, you feel you can do everything you want to do... I play 98 percent of the time. I hardly ever leave the game. I don't think there's too many backs in the league that play almost every play. I take pride in that."

"I know what my main source (of income) is; it's coming from the field. The bottom line is you have to be happy with yourself and be able to look yourself in the mirror. I don't want to have that guilt on my shoulders, that I didn't give it my all."

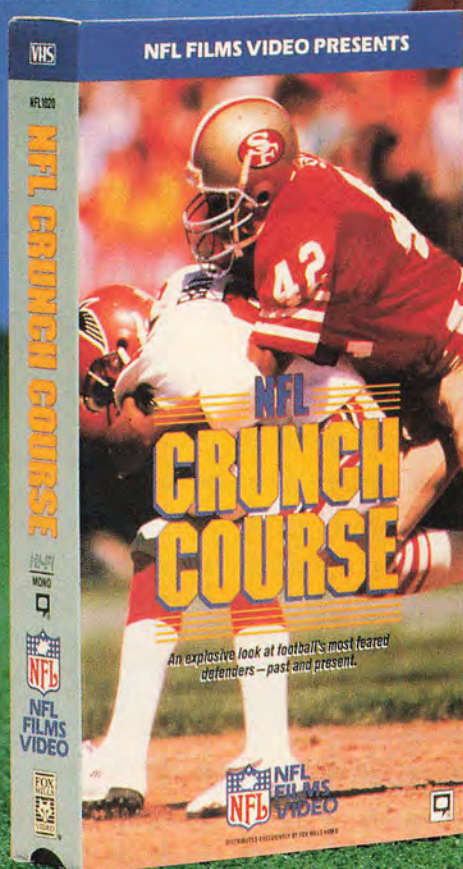
"There's a lot of unhappy athletes out there who wish they could have played better, or wish they could have done this better, or trained. They're saying, 'I wish I would have worked a little harder.' When I retire from this game, I want to leave all my heart and soul on the field, and then

*Continued*



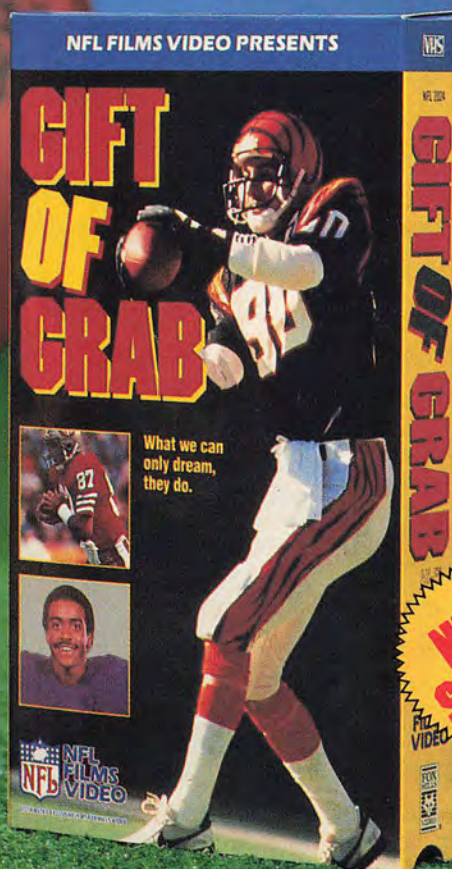
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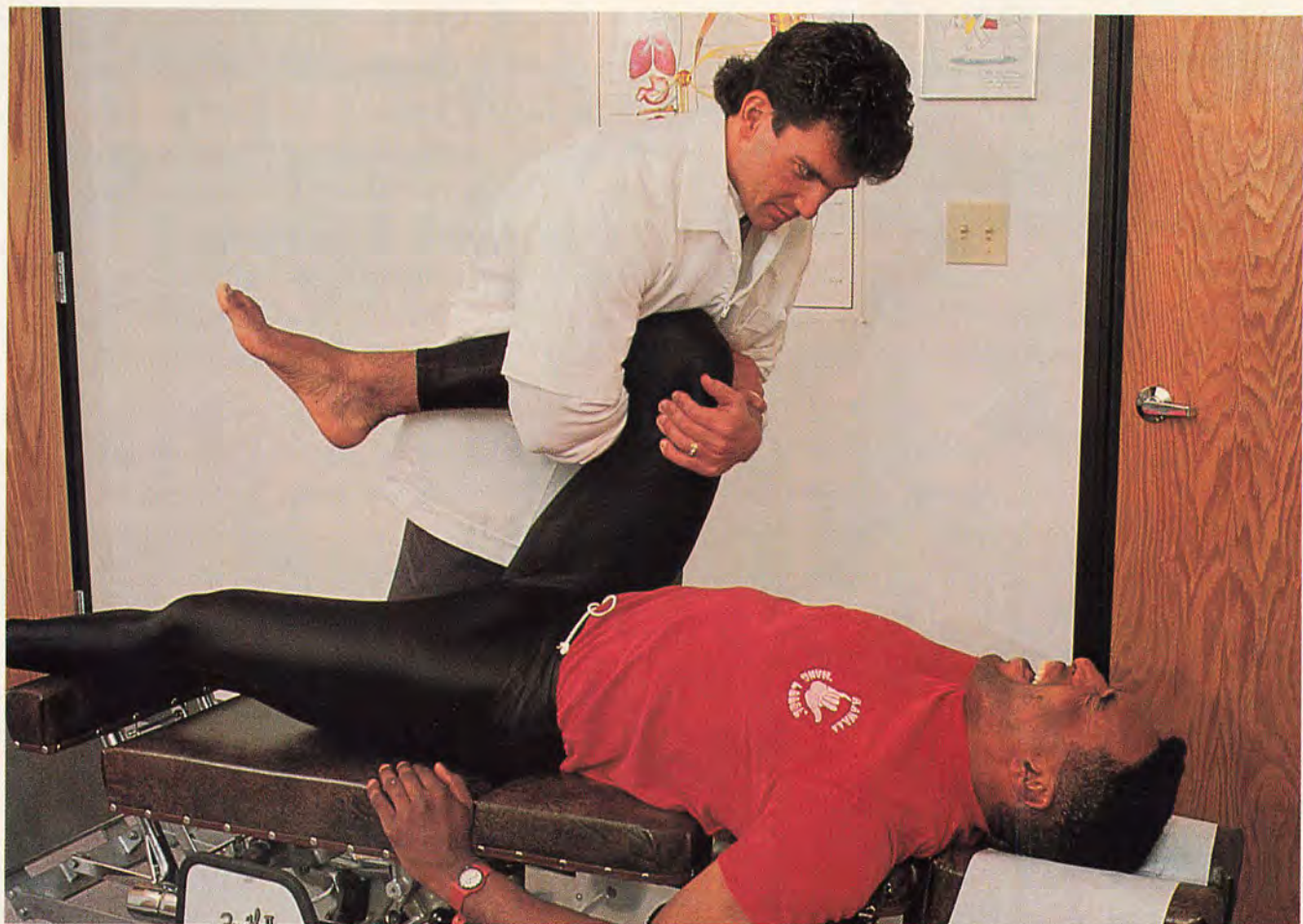
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*Craig doesn't only beat his body. He pampers it, too, spending several thousand dollars a year on visits*

*with a masseuse and a chiropractor in order to keep his "spine in line, like a car."*

## CRAIG

go on with life."

No one ever could accuse Roger Craig of not giving his all. One of his trademarks is the way he plays and practices. In games, he fights for every inch; it's rare when a single tackler can bring him down. On the practice field, where many running backs try to rest up between games, he runs out every play, sprinting 30, 35, 40 yards downfield at full speed, the only gear he uses. The 49ers probably could shave some time off their practices if Craig were less energetic.

Craig has always worked hard. But it has only been since 1985, when he had that magical 1,000/1,000 season, that he has been downright fanatical about it. In 1986, Craig suffered a hip injury that he believes could have been prevented had he trained harder before the season. He hasn't forgotten the pain he endured as a result.

"I was playing on a separated hip the whole (1986) season," said Craig who, at the time, never let on as to the severity of the injury. "It was terrible. The pain was unbelievable."

His production fell off the rest of that season and in 1987. But last year, fully healthy and well into his new workout routine, Craig became a 2,000-yard man

once more. Only this time, three-fourths of it came as a runner (1,502 rushing, 534 receiving). He set a team rushing record and enjoyed his best overall season.

Craig celebrated by buying grandfather clocks for his offensive linemen. He had bought them shotguns in 1985, but he figured the wives would appreciate the clocks more.

"I think I wasn't mentally as strong (in 1986) as I was last year," he said. "The key to being on top of your game is the mental edge, knowing what you can do and knowing what you can push your body to. I'm trying to push my body to the limit, where pain won't even affect me when the season rolls around, because I've suffered through all the pain. That's why I train the way I do."

Few of his peers train that way. Arthur Ting, an orthopedic surgeon and a marathoner who often runs with Craig, finds him quite unlike some of the players he encountered during his introduction to the NFL as a member of the Los Angeles Rams' medical staff.

"Eric Dickerson used to come off the field in the middle of practice and complain about things," Ting said. "That was my viewpoint on running backs. A lot of them came in (to the NFL) with a lot of natural ability and never had to do a lot of training. But Roger trains like a track athlete. It's part of his life."

Ting has worked with many athletes

but has never seen one like Craig, who combines the strength and burst of a sprinter with the durability and endurance of a marathoner. Together, they have put together a specialized football conditioning program that emphasizes endurance running on dirt hills.

"Most football players can run 40 yards fast," Ting said. "Once you get beyond that, because of their endurance and strength, they die out. If you notice, the two best runs Roger had last year were against the Rams (46 yards, breaking at least half a dozen tackles) and Minnesota, where he ran 80 yards (and set an NFL postseason record)."

"For him to run 80 yards, he had to run about 120. (Vikings cornerback) Carl Lee had an angle. But when Roger gets beyond 30-40 yards, he'll beat anybody. He can sustain his speed. And he has greater strength."

Last year was Craig's first as a full-time NFL halfback. He had been a fullback for four years before moving to halfback midway through his fifth. He doesn't have to block as much anymore, which leaves him fresher as a runner. He also needs to weigh less, so—talk about sacrifices—Craig gave up his nightly plate of raisin oatmeal cookies and French vanilla ice cream before last season. That was really tough.

*Continued*



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# CRAIG

"I had to have it," he said. "It was like I was addicted to it. I was like an alcoholic when it came to the ice cream and cookies. I still sneak one or two, but I'm not into it too much anymore."

Craig now maintains his weight at about 210, a good 10 pounds under his old weight. "I think it really helped me," he said, "because I could move a lot faster, and I felt more fluid when I ran."

Craig's off-season regimen is strict. He allows himself only one day of rest a week. Three days a week he is in the weight room. The other three days he gathers Ting and a few teammates—usually cornerback Eric Wright and whoever else happens to be around—and runs through the hills of the San Francisco peninsula. By summer, as training camp draws closer, Craig runs almost every day, no less than five miles at a time. And it's no jog through the park. He traverses winding horse trails, sometimes having to contend for room with the horses, and maintains a brisk seven-minute-mile pace while running uphill. If it's going to be a hot day, he waits until the middle of the afternoon to run.

"The other day, he ran 10 miles at an elevation of about 2,000 feet," Ting said. "He's not even in pain when we finish. People say he's burned out, and he just laughs."

Ting met Craig a couple of years ago when he saw Craig running on pavement one morning. He suggested that running on dirt trails would be much better on the legs. Ting's advice has proved sound as Craig has increased his endurance tremendously.

"The longer he works out, the stronger he gets," said Craig's brother-in-law, Michael Nunn, the middleweight boxing champion and an occasional workout partner.

Craig doesn't only beat his body. He pampers it, too. He has regular visits with a masseuse and a chiropractor both during and between seasons. The private sessions, which run into several thousand dollars a year, are worth it, Craig said, because they keep his muscles from tightening. He compares the treatments to keeping a car running.

"The whole thing keeps my spine in line, like a car," he said. "If you get your car knocked out of line, you need everything balanced, like your wheels. That's how a body is. I get hit from all different angles. He aligns all my joints, so I'm not second-guessing myself."

All this personal attention amounts to more than just a soothing back rub. His body takes so much pounding in games that the treatments can be excruciatingly painful. But his work ethic is such that he endures the pain in order to keep playing and producing. "No pain, no gain," he said.

That's the theme of many fitness programs, but not any that Craig endorses. In fact, he is working on a fitness video and a



*Craig is involved in many business ventures outside of football, but he doesn't let it get in the way of his training.*

book on fitness and workouts, but they focus on the basics and are aimed at youngsters.

"This book," he said, "is not going to have any controversial-type things. It's going to be about conditioning and the mental part of the game. Most kids don't know how to train properly. They go out and they lift wrong; they don't do the right, proper running to condition them for endurance."

Craig wasn't the first athlete to train by running hills. Former Chicago Bears running back Walter Payton popularized that method.

"But he didn't run the hills that I ran," said Craig, whose unique high knee lift when he carries a football is a result of his background as a high hurdler as well as his hill-running. "He'd run up a hill and come back down. See, I run more of an endurance, a marathon type of running, conditioning and endurance at the same time."

"When the hill goes up, I sprint up the hill. Then it levels off and I get my recovery time, then I hit another hill and go straight up again."

And on and on and on, for at least an hour at a time.

Craig and Payton have discussed their passion for conditioning. Maybe talking about it made them hungry, because now they're talking about teaming up in a sports bar/restaurant venture in the San Francisco area. Craig already is a part-owner in a similar restaurant in nearby Cupertino, Calif.

Craig is involved in many other business ventures outside of football. His vari-

ous projects kept him busy in the weeks following the Super Bowl as he traveled to such cities as New York, Tokyo, Atlanta and Los Angeles. But, of course, he didn't let business get in the way of his training; if he was out of town for any extended period of time, he took workout gear with him and found a place to run.

Craig has endorsement contracts with a shoe company, a soft-drink outfit and a major San Francisco department store, where he often models clothes. He was the player selected to help promote the 49ers' exhibition-game trip to Japan this August, an assignment that tied in nicely with a shoe deal there. He appeared at a toy convention on behalf of a San Francisco company that makes stuffed animals, and he attended a sporting goods show. He was invited to appear on the Home Box Office series "First and Ten."

"It has not been a windfall, but he has made some money," said Jim Steiner, Craig's agent.

Craig, who also is a regular visitor at hospitals and charity events, likes this side of football. He is a natty dresser who enjoys putting on a suit and tie. He's even taking acting lessons "so I won't feel uncomfortable," he said. He carries one of those little loose-leaf organizers with him, just like any young businessman.

Football still comes first, but Craig is planning ahead.

"I've got a lot of stuff going on, but I've still got my mind on my job," he said. "What it's doing is preparing me for life after football. It's a chance to show a little more personality of yourself, that you're not just a jock." ■



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# LETHAL WEAPON

By ROBERT SANSEVERE  
Minneapolis Star Tribune

**Y**ou've just traded places with Joey Browner and you don't know what to do first.

You could take your wife to lunch—if she's in town. She might be in Paris, Rome, Milan, New York. She's an international model who spent probably nine months away from home in 1988.

Lunch is out? Well, there's always the cramped, dimly lit dojo that has become your home away from home. You're at this martial arts den six days a week when you're not playing football. You started working out here because it reminded you of that dojo you visited in Japan where they trained the emperor's guards. You earned your first black belt at 17 and now you're after another. You tell people martial arts have helped make you an All-Pro safety with the Minnesota Vikings.

Is it the football season? Unless you have a game that day, you'll spend most of the morning and afternoon in meetings and practice at the Vikings' training complex in Eden Prairie. If it's game day, you'll spend the afternoon tormenting some poor tight end and leading the Vikings in tackles. Your coaches think the world of you. Jerry Burns, your head coach, and Floyd Peters, your defensive coordinator, say you're destined for the Hall of Fame.

You could do worse than trading places with Joey Browner.

"It doesn't take a genius to know Joey's in a class by himself," Peters said.

Browner's father poured steel to support a wife and eight children, working practically every day of his life. He died when Joey was 15. His legacy to Joey and the other children was a work ethic.

This ethic and some genetics provided from his mother's side of the family helped Joey and three of his five brothers develop the ability to play in the National

*Martial arts  
have helped turn  
Joey Browner  
into Chuck Norris  
in shoulder pads*

Football League. Older brothers Ross and Jim played with the Cincinnati Bengals. Keith, who is younger, is a 6-foot-6, 265-pound linebacker with the San Diego Chargers. Joey is 6-2, 210 pounds, on the smallish side for a Browner. "Our size isn't from overeating," he said. "It's hereditary." His youngest brother, Gerald, is 6-5, 330. His grandfather was 6-3, 330. An uncle goes 6-7, 300-plus.

With the size came speed. Tell Joey Browner to run 40 yards against the clock and he'll finish in 4.5 or 4.6 seconds. That's decent speed for a strong safety. Of course, there are running backs and wide receivers with 4.3 speed. What happens if Browner has to catch one of them?

"I guarantee he'll run them down," Burns said. "I haven't seen anybody run away from him. He has a third gear. He can accelerate. I don't care how fast a guy is. He'll get him."

If Browner doesn't do it with speed, he'll do it with angles. He knows angles. His martial arts training has made sure of that.

"I think through every move before I do it," Browner said. "I calculate angles. What can I do? Who else is coming? If I miss the first angle, can I get him with the second angle? Can I knock the ball out? Can I punch the ball so it's exposed?"

"You are a computer. You analyze everything you see. Once you come to a final evaluation you decide what you're going to do."

He works out at that small, cramped, dimly lit dojo with 6-foot bamboo sticks,

swords and other forms of weaponry that can be found in most any Bruce Lee movie. But he doesn't always have a weapon. Doesn't need one. His hands are lethal puppies.

Burns said Browner has a grip like a vise. Or Alan Page. When Page got hold of runners, they didn't get away. Same thing with Browner.

Case in point: Browner chased down Denver Broncos running back Gerald Willhite in 1987. Willhite ran 29 yards before Browner reached out a hand and yanked him down one step short of the goal line. It was ugly, gross, graphic. Replayed many times over, it showed Willhite's leg folding under him and snapping. Browner blames the break on Willhite's choice of shoes. "It gripped the turf," Browner said. "When I pulled him from behind, there was no way his foot could kick out. All the weight was on his leg."

It was a clean play, a great play on Browner's part. Not all the plays he's involved in get the stamp of approval from officials, however. He once stepped on a player's head after tackling him. Browner said it was an accident, that he tried helping the guy up and the darndest thing happened—the guy rolled under his foot. That's Browner's version. On Thanksgiving Day 1987, Dallas Cowboys wide receiver Mike Renfro caught three touchdown passes against the Vikings. After the second catch, Browner picked up Renfro by the seat of the pants, an impressive display of that hand strength. It touched off a scuffle and Browner was slapped with an unsportsmanlike conduct penalty.

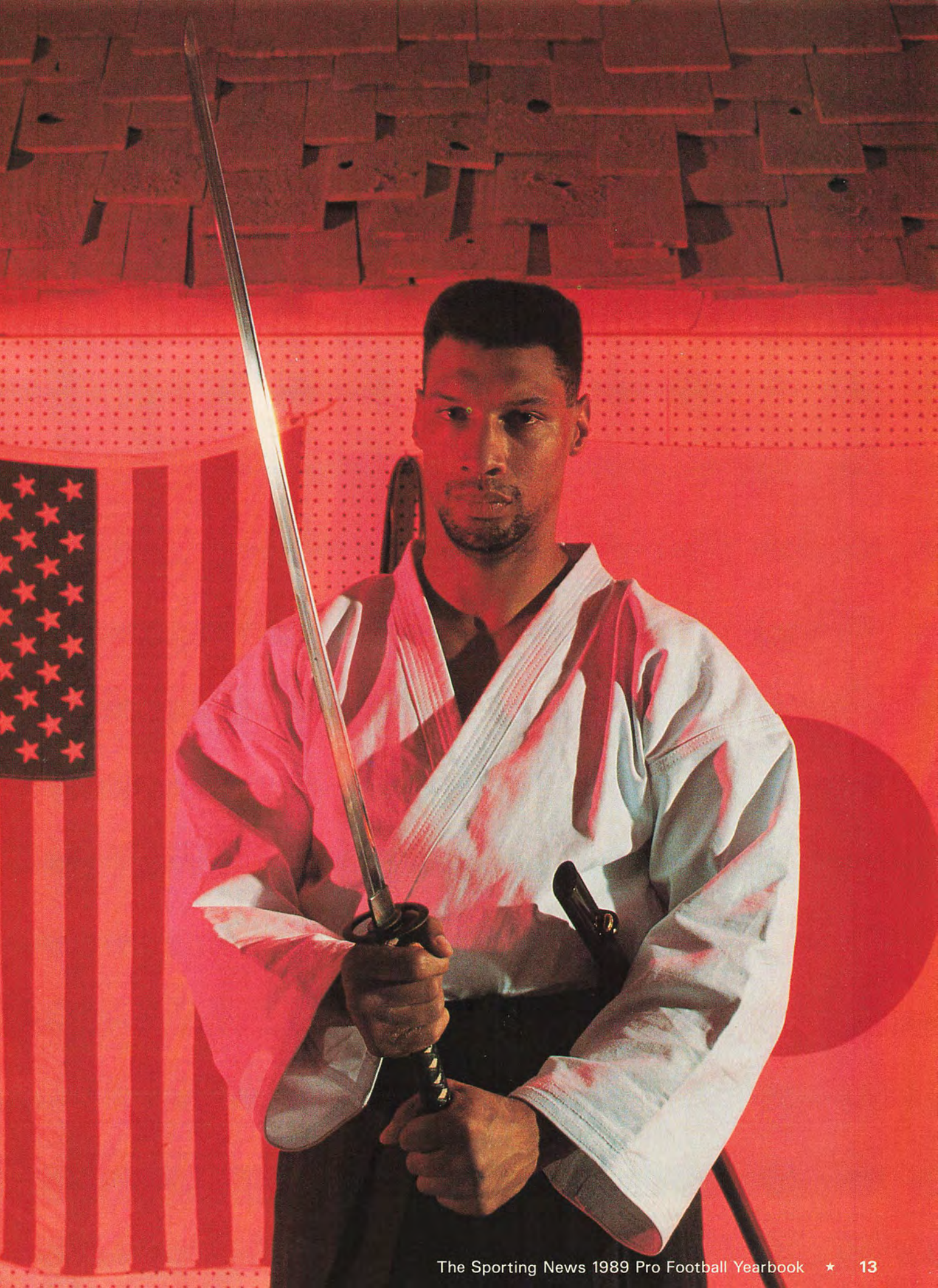
"He's a hitter. I think he can intimidate," Chicago Bears Coach Mike Ditka has said of Browner. "A lot of people probably think twice before going into his area."

Wouldn't anyone avoid a Chuck Norris in football armor?

Browner has the look of a hi-tech war-

*Continued*









*Joey Browner, who earned his first black belt at 17, trains six days a week when he's not playing football.*

# LETHAL WEAPON

rior. He covers virtually his entire body with padding to protect his skin from getting burned raw on artificial turf. He's worn hockey elbow pads for years and is designing a similar pad to market.

It's ironic, in a way. It's the other guy who needs the protection from Browner. On top of that natural ability, this martial arts training has made Browner one scary life-threatening life form. He worked out daily this spring to improve his karate and aikijujutsu, training for his next black belt test. Many of the techniques he mastered are not taught in most dojos.

"About 90 percent of what we do would be illegal in competition," said John Meyer, Browner's instructor. "A lot of things I do to get a guy off his feet would get Joey a lot of yellow flags."

Browner tailors much of the training to suit his football needs. "The whole principle of martial arts is to hit the other guy and get him off balance," Meyer said.

Browner looks at a ballcarrier and mentally divides the guy's body in half. Instead of tackling him head-on, he will work on half of the body. Angles, remember the angles.

"Someone could be running 100 miles per hour. I take his energy and redirect it," Browner said. "I take one side of his body and attack it. Use your energy and his, and it makes you look very strong."

In the wake of Browner's success, Vikings free safety Brad Edwards enrolled in Meyer's dojo. There are plans on the club to have up to a dozen players taking lessons.

"A person's assignment out there is to destroy you," Browner said. "This is a way to protect yourself."

New Orleans Saints Coach Jim Mora said Browner might be starting a trend: "As players see people like Browner taking part in martial arts and having success on the football field, maybe they'll say, 'If it works for him, it'll work for me.'"

Browner earned his first black belt in Kenpo, which is a Chinese and Japanese form of boxing. Still in high school then, he didn't know how much he'd benefit in football from his martial arts training.

Browner was still learning, growing, escaping the shadow left by Ross, who is six years older. Ross was a role model as an athlete, one to whom all the Browner boys were compared. "I had to make my own footprints instead of walking in his," Joey said.

Named to the Parade All-America team as a linebacker at Southwest High School in Atlanta, Browner was recruited heavily before selecting Southern California. He was starting at cornerback by his sophomore season with the Trojans, playing in

*Continued*



A black and white photograph of Mike Ditka, a man with a mustache, wearing a dark blue Chicago Bears jacket with a large red 'C' logo. He is holding a rolled-up white document with a black band. The background is dark and textured.

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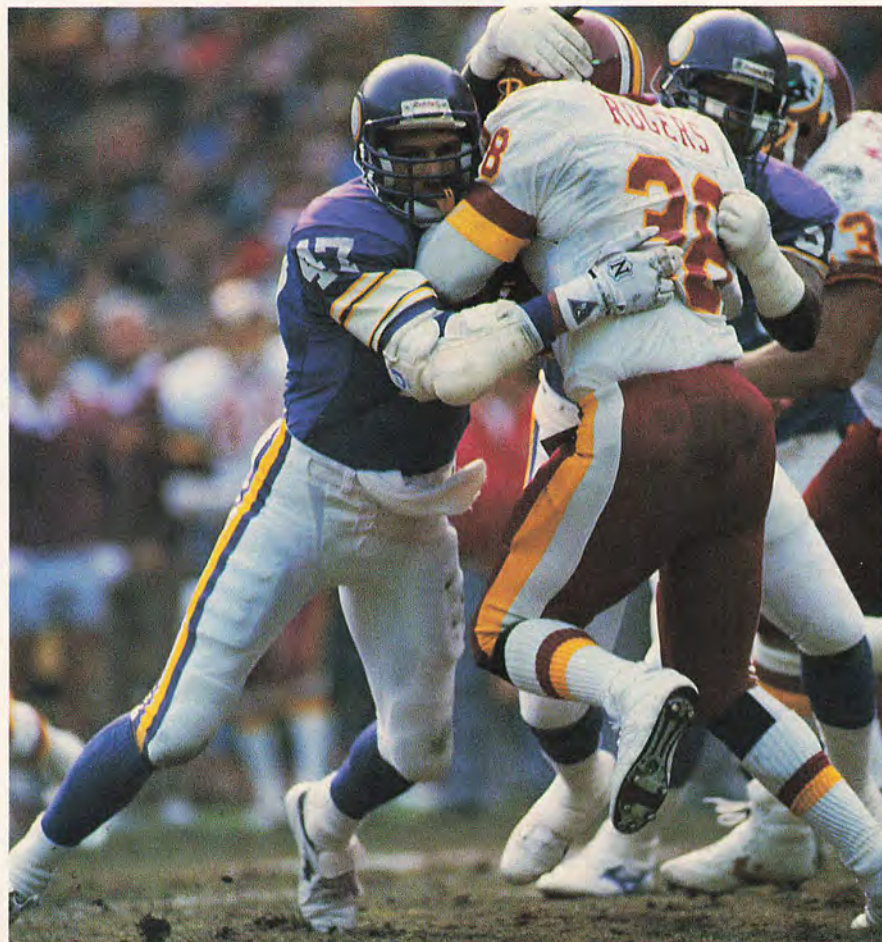


**WEAR WHAT THE PROS WEAR**





*Browner tailors much of his training to suit his football needs, for instance using angles effectively to tackle a ballcarrier.*



# LETHAL WEAPON

a secondary that included Ronnie Lott, Dennis Smith and Jeff Fisher.

The Vikings selected Browner in the first round of the 1983 NFL draft, making him the 19th pick overall. He didn't expect it. He said he wasn't sure whether he'd even be drafted. You see, his brother Willard had been a fullback at Utah State and nobody drafted him. Joey thought Willard was good enough to be drafted and, hell, if Willard didn't get picked maybe they'd pass on him, too. Minnesota broke precedent, however, and made Browner its first defensive back ever taken in the first round.

Browner started only one game as a rookie but led the Vikings' special teams in tackles. He understood not starting. Bud Grant still was coach and playing rookies wasn't his style.

But in 1984, confusion and anger set in. Les Steckel took over as coach and Browner was shuttled around the secondary. He started eight games, shifting from free safety to cornerback. He also got benched.

When Grant returned to coach the 1985 season, Browner was told, "You're a strong safety from now on." Settling in, he ranked second on the club in total tackles and was outstanding on the special teams. Browner was named to the National Football Conference's Pro Bowl squad and scored the conference's first touchdown on a 48-yard interception return. He has gone to the last three Pro Bowls for his play at safety and led the Vikings in tackles two of those three seasons.

CBS-TV analyst John Madden watched Browner make two first-quarter interceptions in last season's NFC wild-card playoff game against the Los Angeles Rams and said: "Whatever I had to do—play football, go over a hill—I'd want Joey Browner. I'd take that guy with me."

The Vikings have set up their 4-3 defense to put Browner in key positions to make tackles. Burns said teams try to devise strategies to lessen Browner's impact. They have put a tight end 10 yards off the line, hoping Browner will shadow him. That's just fine with the Vikings. "Any time you take a tight end out of the game, you drastically reduce your effectiveness running the ball," Burns said.

And who's to say the Vikings will put Browner on the tight end? They could put a linebacker out there, too. But even if Browner stays with the tight end, the Vikings have four other players from the NFL's top-rated defense in 1988 who were good enough to go to the Pro Bowl: end Chris Doleman, tackle Keith Millard, linebacker Scott Studwell and cornerback Carl Lee.

"(Browner's) really hurt us," said Mora, whose Saints have lost three straight to the Vikings. "He's a great player. No question about it. They use his abilities



very effectively. They put him in positions in their defensive scheme where he gets involved."

More from Mora, this time echoing Madden: "He seems to be the kind of person you'd like to have with you in tough situations."

Browner was in a tough situation about five years ago. He wasn't starting regularly and he was lonely. He had friends, sure, but not a woman in his life—not a special woman. Big brother Ross' future wife, Shayla, told him to contact a friend of hers, a woman named Valeria Riccardo.

Known professionally as Aria, she had apartments in Paris and New York. She was a cover girl for *Vogue*, *Ebony*, Harper's Bazaar and had been a Clairol girl. She modeled for Ralph Lauren, Yves St. Laurent, everybody who was anybody in high fashion.

Browner took her telephone number, but two months passed before he first called. They had several phone conversations before finally meeting. Browner liked her. A lot. She was beautiful, which certainly was a big plus. She also was hardly interested in the fact that he played football. Another plus. Browner tired of meeting people who seemed to like him only because he was in the NFL.

In less than a year, they were married.

They travel together, when their schedules allow it. Valeria has accompanied Joey to the Pro Bowl and he has gone to Europe to be with her.

"I remember the first time I took Joey with me to Europe two or three years ago," Valeria told the Minneapolis Star Tribune. "By the time Joey got to Paris, he was sick from food poisoning. By the third day, he was almost over it, but he was asking me, 'Can you take me to the hospital, please?' After a couple of days in Paris, he said, 'I've had enough of this. I'm ready to go home.'"

"Her world is a lot different than mine," Browner said. "Before I met her, I didn't pay attention to fashion and proper grooming and etiquette. Ball players don't care how they look. They just put something on. She checks me out now. She's given me insight on fashion."

And Browner wants to give some insight to Vikings General Manager Mike Lynn. Browner is entering the last year of his contract and expects a big raise to follow.

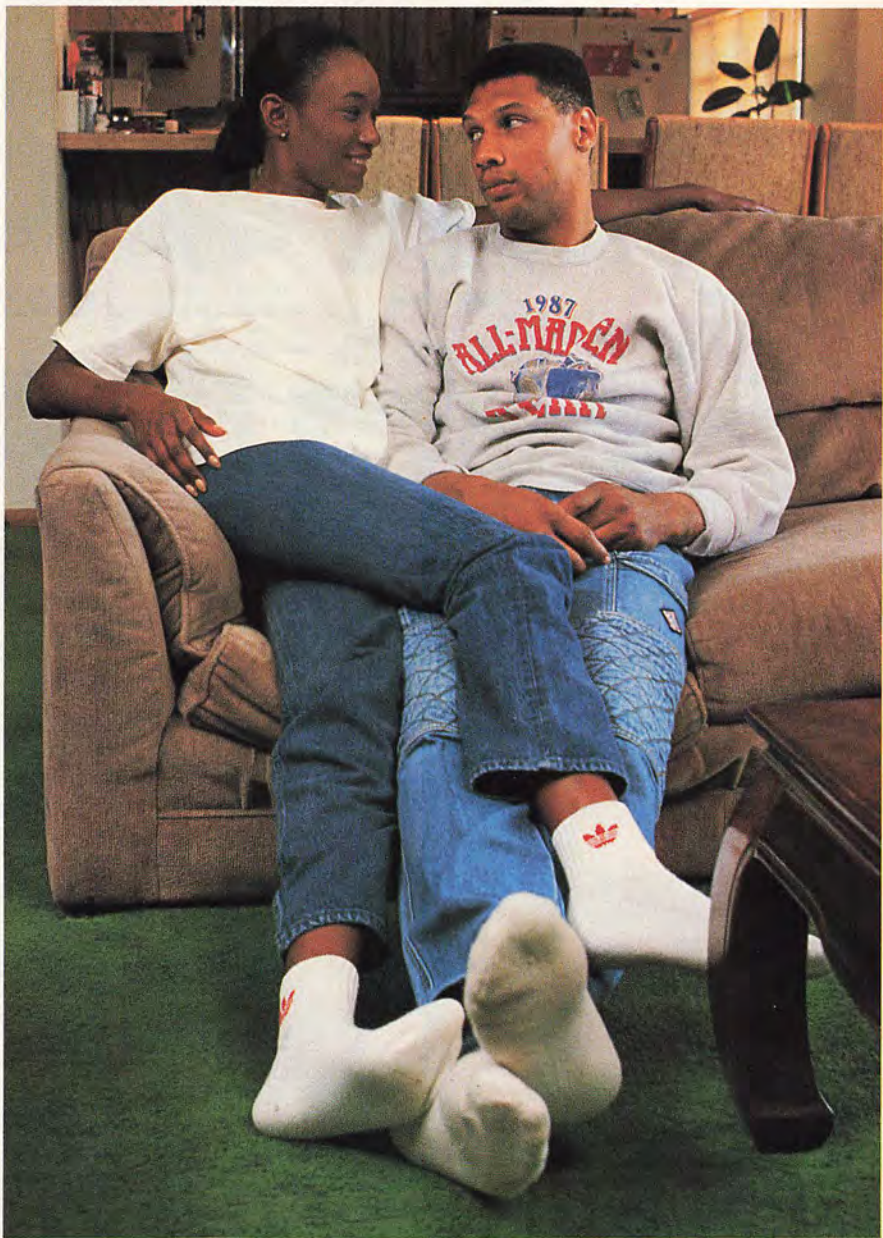
"I feel I'm the best out there now," said Browner, a consensus All-Pro pick the last two years. "I'm not paid like a superstar. If you get an Oscar, you want to get paid like an Oscar winner. If you're in the Pro Bowl, All-Pro and Numero Uno at your position, what more can you do? The next thing is get my face in the Hall of Fame."

Oh, yeah. The Hall of Fame in Canton, O. It has been Browner's dream since elementary school, when a janitor friend took him there. The shrine was within driving distance from his home in Warren, O.

"I said I wanted to eventually go there. I didn't know the criteria then," Browner said. "I feel I'm on the right track to obtain it." ■



*Even as a consensus All-Pro pick the last two years, Browner takes a backseat to wife Valeria in terms of recognition. She is an international model known professionally as Aria.*





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G - COACHES JACKET	T - WASTEBASKET
H - PENNANT	U - BACKBOARD
I - BUMPER STRIP	V - MASCOT KEY CHAIN
J - BUTTONS	W - PENNANT CLOCK
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M - MONEY CLIP	Z - WINDOW DECAL

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# GOOD GUYS WEAR

*There's much more to Jerry Glanville than*

By JOHN McCLAIN  
Houston Chronicle

**I**t is Sunday morning and Jerry Glanville stands erect and confident at a church pulpit, delivering a sermon on the evil of drugs. He looks like an evangelist—dark suit, conservative tie, white

flower in his lapel, perfectly combed hair—but he doesn't sound like one. There's no pounding, cajoling or lecturing about the power of prayer. Glanville simply works his audience like a yo-yo, telling heartbreaking and heartwarming stories, interweaving drug-related facts and figures and cracking a few jokes to ease the

tension.

He takes the microphone and walks down into the heart of the congregation. About 200 parishioners listen intently as he moves from aisle to aisle. Glanville has the smooth and confident delivery of a seasoned lay minister. He asks questions, pauses for just the right effect, then sup-





# BLACK

## *meets the eye*

plies the kind of answers guaranteed to get attention.

"Let's face it," Glanville said later. "If I came here just as Jerry Glanville, nobody would show up. But since I'm the head coach of the Houston Oilers, a lot of people came here to listen to what I have to say."



Whether speaking to a group of 16 kids in a small classroom or 16,000 parishioners at Second Baptist Church in Houston, Glanville's message is simple: He is trying to show parents and children how to do more than just say no to drugs.

"Just say no" only works from the kindergarten through the fourth grade," he said. "After the fourth grade, 'just say no' is laughed at. I try to give a kid communicative skills, a way to escape at the time of decision without being considered a wimp, a way to still be respected by his peer group."

Drug prevention became Glanville's obsession during the 1989 off-season. After the Oilers were eliminated by the Buffalo Bills in the second round of the National Football League playoffs in January, he embarked on a barnstorming tour of Houston and southeast Texas. Educated in 12-hour seminars conducted by the Drug Enforcement Agency and FBI, Glanville spoke at churches, schools, tent revivals, recreational centers and conventions.

"There's no mystery to why I do this," he said. "It's just something I feel in my heart that I have to do. You owe it to the community you live and work in to give something back. The churches want help but don't know where to go, and the schools are handicapped. If I can help just one kid by doing this, it's worth the effort."

When it comes to children and drugs, Glanville can't say no. When he wasn't making speeches, he was trying to force the city of Houston to open recreational centers on weekend nights. He arranged afternoon concerts in parks within walking distance of heavily populated neighborhoods. He was invited to present his ideas to a convention of 250 police chiefs.

This is the Dr. Jekyll side to Jerry Glanville. His football personality is quite different. There are many who marvel that he is entering his fourth season as Oilers coach, despite stepping on more toes than an uncoordinated teen-ager at his first dance.

"I ticked a lot of people off 20 years ago, too," he said with an air of defiance. "Total honesty used to be the American way. Now you're supposed to have honesty with diplomacy. If you want an honest answer, I'll give it to you. So I make people mad."

Glanville shrugs his shoulders matter of factly. He is sitting behind a desk at his Houston office wearing a black outfit similar to what he wears on the sideline for every Oiler game. Black is beautiful. It goes hand in hand with his rebellious nature. He drives a black Corvette with a black interior. His mother drives a black Cadillac. Even his tuxedo shirt and knee brace are black.

"Some people want to put a stamp on your forehead that says you can't have fun in this job," he said. "I believe in having fun. If your fun causes somebody else

pain, then you've got to take a look at it. I've reached a point in my life where I know what's inside me. That's more important than what other people think."

Glanville can be serious or silly, the tough-minded boss or the class clown who entertains with a quick wit and an engaging sense of humor. Some see his behavior as irreverent and outlandish. Others find him arrogant and abrasive. Depending on his mood, he can be combative, volatile and insufferable. He revels in his war with some members of the Houston media, exchanging insults on an almost daily basis during the season.

"Sometimes," Glanville said, "I think the media would like 28 coaching clones. But I learned a long time ago not to care what the media says. It would bother me if the press thought I was a great coach and my peers didn't think I could coach. The bottom line is that the media can't save your job if you lose, and it can't get you fired if you win."

Glanville actually may have more friends in the media than the coaching profession. He loves to antagonize opposing coaches with his tactics and sarcastic comments.

"I read where one guy says he's working 16 hours a day," Glanville said. "Looking at his picture, I'd say he spends 14 hours on his hair."

Ouch! Take that, Jimmy Johnson (the new Dallas coach). Glanville doesn't care if coaches like him, but it's important that they respect the job he does.

"I'd rather be known as a coach with teams that played hard than a coach that made a lot of friends," he said. "I'd be sick if we didn't hit hard. Some people say I'm not serious enough, but have you ever seen us on Sunday? We're so serious we try to kill you. I think we're serious about the right things."

Some would disagree. Under Glanville, the Oilers have earned a reputation as dirty players. They did nothing to dispel that notion in 1988, leading the NFL with 1,150 penalty yards. Opposing coaches and players claim the Oilers don't stop at bending the rules, that Glanville teaches his troops the finer points of late hits and spearing.

Glanville scoffs at such accusations. And there's no denying that his coaching methods, questionable or not, have lifted Houston back into football prominence. After finishing 11-5 in 1980, Bum Phillips' last year as coach in Houston, the Oilers had fallen on hard times, compiling an 18-55 mark over the next five seasons. Enter Glanville. After a 5-11 first season (1986), Glanville's Oilers earned playoff berths in 1987 and '88 with 9-6 and 10-6 records.

Controversy aside, it's not easy to question the character of a man who makes frequent visits to Texas Children's Hospital in the Houston Medical Center. Even before he became preoccupied with the drug issue, he was deeply involved in the Ronald McDonald House—an organization that offers services and accommodations to families of hospitalized children.

***Black is beautiful to Jerry Glanville, going hand in hand with his rebellious nature.***

*Continued*





## GOOD GUYS

*Glanville has an incredible passion for critically ill children, making frequent visits to Texas Children's Hospital.*

Meeting the families of cancer-stricken children and sharing their grief altered his outlook on life. He started visiting as many children as possible, telling them to have faith and to keep fighting.

"Jerry has an incredible passion for critically ill children," said Father Jim Alcorn, chaplain of St. Luke's Episcopal Hospital. Alcorn recommends children for Glanville to visit and makes the arrangements.

"Some of the children have been in the hospital for weeks with a debilitating illness, and seeing Jerry is a real uplift for them," Alcorn said. "If I call him about a particular kid, he'll come in the middle of the night if he has to. He relates to them and interacts with them. He's great at holding their hand and looking them in the eye. He has an amazing amount of compassion. A number of times, after we've visited a kid, Jerry's stood in the hall with tears streaming down his face."

There are many stories about Glanville's "children." One day he visited a 14-year-old boy with bone cancer. There were no cards, flowers or balloons in the room. The next day, the room looked like a circus.

"Jerry's sensitive and compassionate, and he cares about people who are hurting," said Pastor Bill Coulter of Houston's Spring Branch Nazarene Church.

Bishop Maurice M. Benitez of the Episcopal Diocese of Texas gets emotional

*Continued*



*Glanville and wife Brenda also are deeply involved in the Ronald McDonald House. Here they're doing their best impersonation of James Dean and Natalie Wood at a costume party/fund-raising event.*



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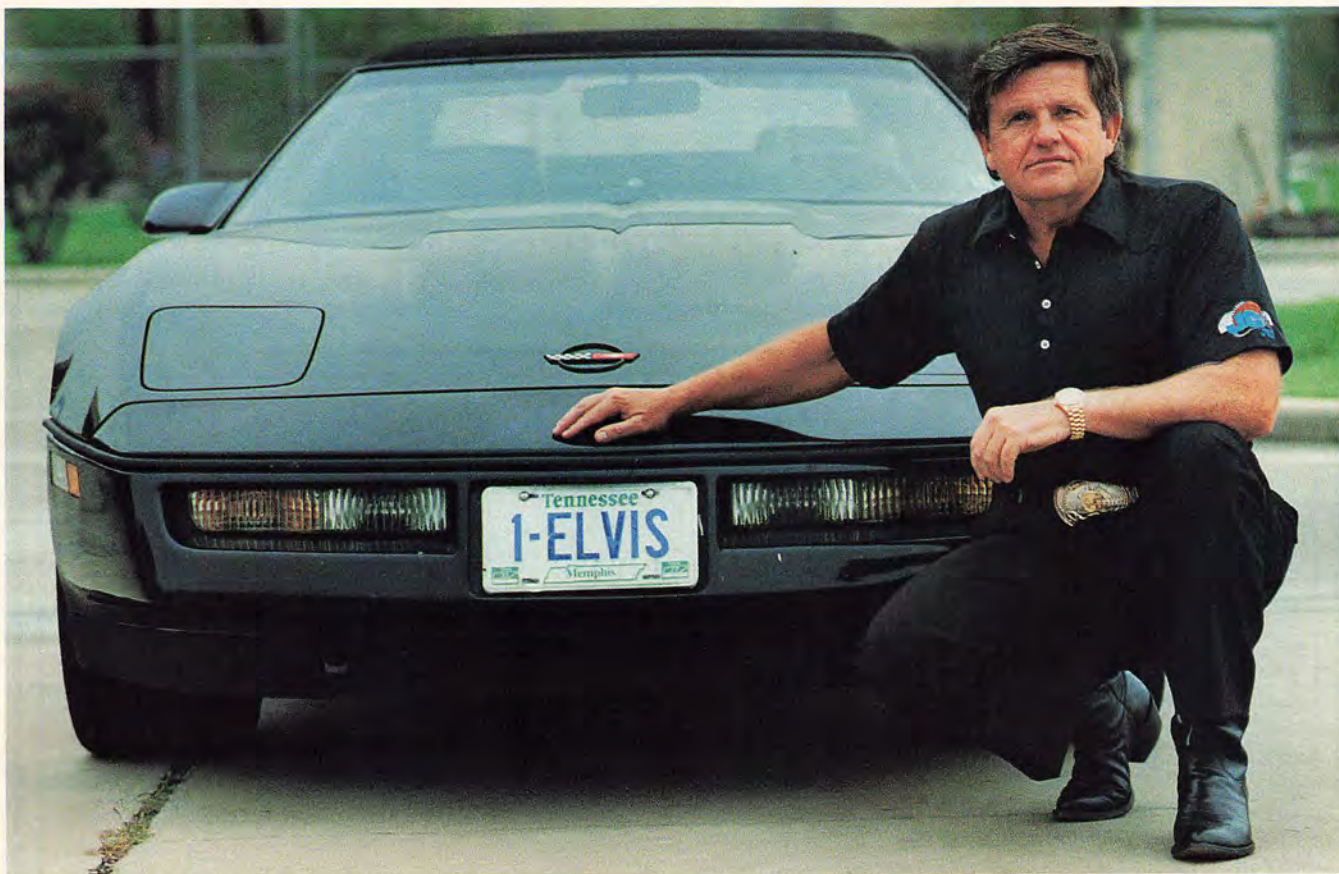
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*Growing up in Detroit and with his father in the car business, Glanville developed a fascination for auto-*

*mobiles at an early age. He still drives his Corvette around Houston like A.J. Foyt at Indy.*

## GOOD GUYS

when talking about Glanville.

"Jerry Glanville is one of the finest human beings I know," he said.

Glanville often is accompanied by assistant coaches and players when he is making his rounds. Most don't have the stomach for such gut-wrenching work.

"I went with him one time to see a child whose kidneys were going bad," said Oilers linebackers coach Floyd Reese. "I can see a 25-year-old player break an arm or get his face smashed and not wince a bit, but if anything happens to a kid, I go to pieces. Jerry and I walked into that room, and the kid was all hooked up to a machine, and I almost passed out. Jerry walked right over to him and told him who he was. The kid almost jumped out of the bed."

Brenda Glanville offers insight into why her husband has become so devoted to children.

"Justin Russell," she said. "Justin Russell changed Jerry's life."

Glanville met Justin Russell in February 1987. Three days after Glanville had undergone surgery to remove his gall bladder at St. Luke's, he received word that a teen-ager dying of cancer wanted to meet the head coach of the Houston Oilers. Glanville was pushed through the tunnels that connect St. Luke's and Texas Children's Hospital in a wheelchair. When

he reached the boy's room, he saw Justin for the first time. His bed was in a glass room. He was 15 years old, 6-foot-2 and 61 pounds. He had no hair. Last rites had already been administered.

"I just told him to keep the faith and don't give up," Glanville recalled. "I told him if he would come to the Rams game (the Oilers' 1987 season opener), we'd win it for him and give him the game ball."

Although no one expected him to survive, Justin, who, ironically, bears the same first name as Glanville's 7-year-old son, was at the Astrodome seven months later when the Oilers opened the 1987 season by beating the Rams, 20-16. The players presented him the game ball.

Although Glanville seemed uncomfortable talking about Justin, he arose from his office chair and pointed to a picture on the wall. There was a smiling, healthy Justin Russell wearing his high school football uniform.

Another story doesn't have such a happy ending. Glanville met Adam, who was dying of leukemia, and the Glanvilles became extremely close to the teen-ager and his family, sharing in their suffering. Adam was able to attend a couple of Oiler games and he made banners encouraging them to win. When he died, he was buried in the jersey of defensive end Ray Childress, his favorite player.

"Coach Glanville truly is a caring, sensitive man," linebacker Robert Lyles said. "He does have this macho thing, and I don't know if it's because he's short (5-9)

or what, but he has to present that tough image. I've seen him do a lot of things out of the goodness of his heart, though."

Lyles probably knows Glanville better than any player on the team. He joined the Oilers as a rookie in 1984, the same year Glanville was hired as defensive coordinator. Lyles has seen his coach put up a facade to hide the chinks in his armor, the imperfections he refuses to reveal to the fans and media.

"It's hard for him to admit certain things because he thinks it shows a vulnerable spot," Lyles said. "I think he feels like it's a sign of weakness, like he's losing some power or an edge. He has an ego that's bigger than his size, but he's got a big heart, too. I think it comes from the life he had as a child, the challenges he had to face growing up in Detroit."

Lyles nicknamed his coach "Doctor Detroit." Glanville is proud of his roots and the obstacles he was forced to overcome.

"I was born in Saratoga (General) Hospital," he said. "I was one of the few in that hospital who wasn't there because of a gunshot or knife wound."

Glanville spent his preschool years in a housing project on the east side while his father was fighting in World War II. He was 5 when his father returned home as a war hero.

"I can still remember it," Glanville said. "When my father came down the street, people came out of the buildings, stood on

*Continued*

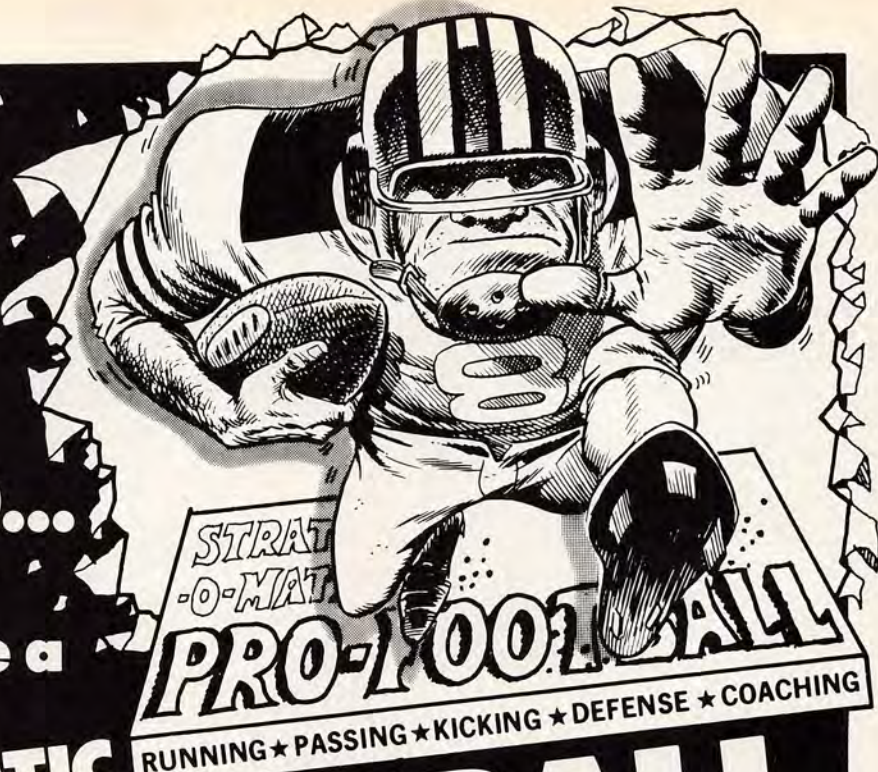


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# GOOD GUYS

sidewalks and waved tiny flags."

Richard Glanville moved his wife and two sons to a new neighborhood. Jerry, the youngest, developed a fascination for baseball and cars at an early age. Two of his proudest possessions today are restored 1950 Mercurys with 350 Corvette engines. One is a "James Dean Special" that he enters in antique automobile shows. Glanville still drives his Corvette around Houston like A.J. Foyt at Indy.

"When you're living in Detroit, and your father's in the car business (he sold automobiles), you take an interest in cars," he said. "Selling a car helped provide a new catcher's mitt. I never attended class when the Tigers were home in the afternoon. I'd ride the streetcar to Briggs Stadium and sneak in.

"My dad was a baseball coach, and I played baseball all the time. I never played football at that point. I had an afternoon paper route, and since I never let anything interfere with a doubleheader, sometimes people didn't get their papers until 8 at night."

Friends who knew the Glanvilles say Jerry gets his optimism and sense of humor from his mother; his intensity and win-at-any-cost competitiveness from his father.

"He would compete in anything," Glanville said, referring to his father. "It didn't matter what it was, he just wasn't going to lose. He lived to win. He was a far superior athlete than either of his sons. Sometimes he was very impatient when we couldn't do what he could do."

When he wasn't playing baseball, Glanville usually was fighting.

"You had to be willing to fight at the drop of a hat," he said. "We had these brawls. Growing up, I had a fight every single weekend that I can remember."

In the fifth grade, Glanville's best friend was killed on a playground when he was hit in the head with a baseball bat.

"It was a tragedy," he said. "We were playing and someone killed him. It was an accident, but when you're in the fifth grade and you're a pallbearer for your best friend, it does have an effect on you."

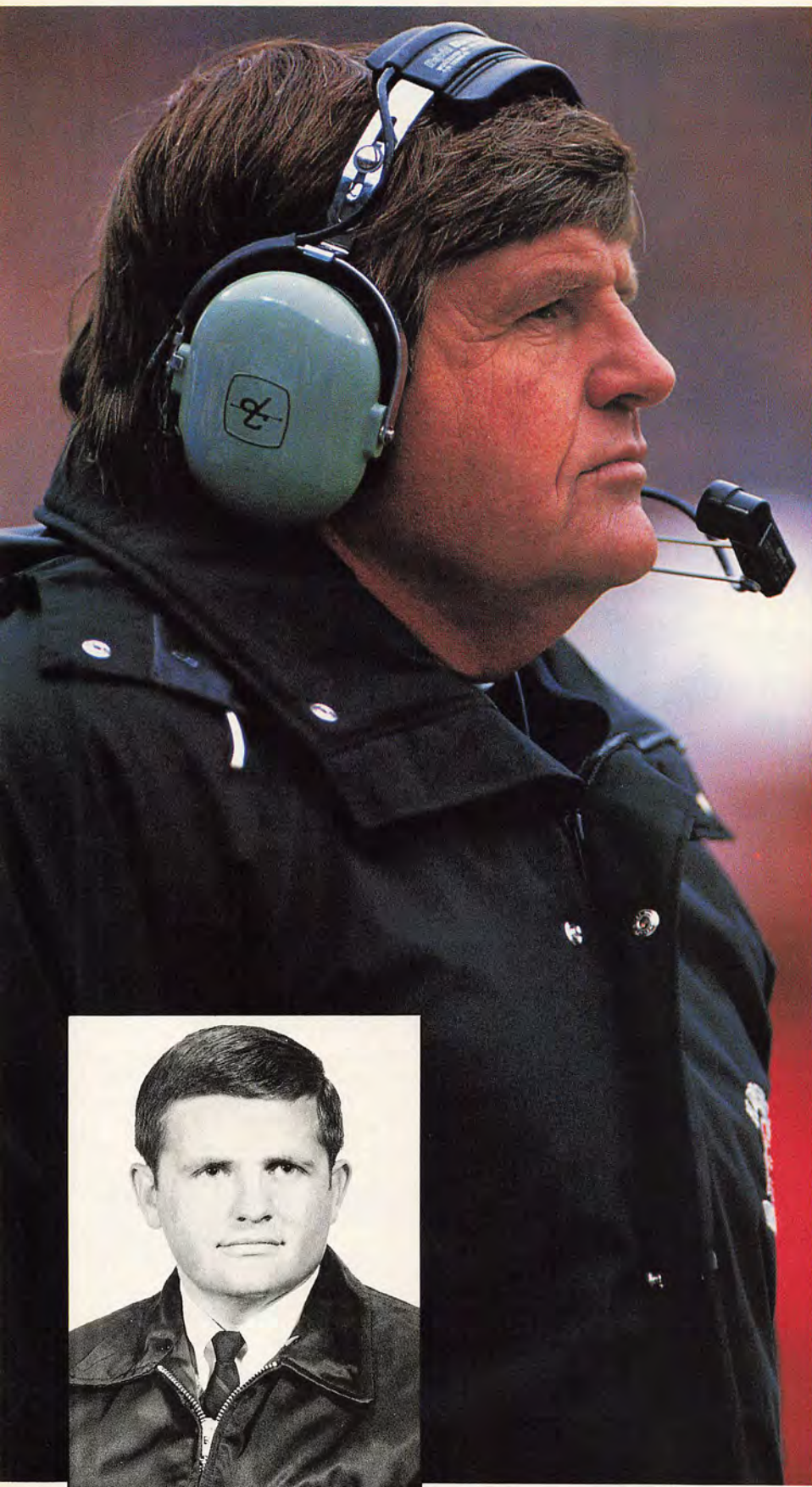
When Glanville was in the eighth grade, his father was transferred and moved the family to Perrysburg, O., a long touchdown pass from Toledo. At first, the Glanville brothers had problems fitting into the small-town atmosphere. One of Jerry's first classmates, Ken Meyer, remains a close friend.

"He was a lot different than us small-town kids," Meyer said. "Jerry wasn't very big, but he had a toughness about him. He got into a lot of fights. He was never one to back down. If there was a fight, Jerry would jump right into the middle of it."

Glanville's football career began in the eighth grade.

"In Ohio, the first time I played football

*Continued*



*On his way up the coaching ladder, from college assistant to NFL head coach, Glanville hasn't changed his unconventional ways a bit.*







# GOOD GUYS

I found out you could knock somebody down and get praised for it," Glanville said. "You didn't get in trouble for doing it. That fascinated me. I came home that first day and told them I had found something I really liked—football.

"That's when I decided I wanted to be a coach. I told my friends I wanted to be the head coach of the Detroit Lions because they were my team. The thing I learned about Perrysburg was that you could have any goal you wanted, and nobody in town was allowed to tell you that you couldn't do it.

"One guy became a major league manager (Jim Leyland of the Pirates). Another (Richard Hill) went to Hollywood, became an actor and had his own series ("Today's FBI"). A good friend of mine used to tell me he planned to join the Secret Service. Not only did he end up joining the Secret Service, he even protected the President.

"When I was in high school, I used to drive to Detroit and go to the Lions' games at Briggs Stadium. My heroes were guys like Bobby Layne and Doak Walker. Even back then I'd chart the schemes they were running, chart the defenses like we were going to play them. I didn't have a ticket to the 1957 championship game between the Lions and Browns, but I got in anyway. The Lions beat them, 59-14, and I still have a spiral notebook where I charted the whole game."

When his parents were divorced and his brother, Richard Jr., joined the Navy, Glanville was alone with his mother.

"My mom worked at night as a waitress, and every night she would put all her tips on my dresser," he said. "When I got up in the morning, I'd count the money. If there wasn't \$8 on the dresser, I knew we weren't going to make it. If there was \$6, then I'd try to do something to get the extra \$2.

"I never heard my mom complain one time. She was always upbeat, never depressed. She was a fighter. No matter what happened, we'd turn it around tomorrow. That's the way she thought."

Glanville weighed 210 pounds as a high school senior and played tackle on both sides of the ball. His high school coach, Jack Donaldson, went on to a successful career as an NFL assistant under Paul Brown with the Cincinnati Bengals and later with the Buffalo Bills.

"I'd show him the NFL games I'd charted, and he'd let me call the defenses," Glanville said. "I never put much effort in schoolwork because everything came so easy for me. In class, I tried to entertain everybody. I'd give them a stand-up Las Vegas show. A teacher wrote in my yearbook that she'd come to Vegas and see me."

Glanville received a scholarship to Montana State, but dropped out and returned to Perrysburg. He went to work at the Chevrolet plant for \$110 a week. He was rescued from the assembly line and a

succession of 12-hour days by a scholarship offer from Northern Michigan, where he finished his college career and earned a bachelor's degree in education. His trips home could cause quite a commotion.

"My brother and I were close, but we fought all the time," he said. "When I was in college, there was a family down the street that had 18 kids, and my mom took in one of them because they were too crowded. My brother was home from the Navy, so when I'd come in from college, we wouldn't have enough beds. It was first come, first serve. The last guy had to sleep on the couch. It was usually my brother because he was a real night owl.

"One night we had a discussion for about four blocks over who was going to get the bed. It grew into a fight that made so much noise somebody called the police. They handcuffed me to a parking meter."

In retrospect, Glanville and his brother can laugh about that incident. But others weren't so funny. Like the day on the football field when Glanville took an elbow to the side of his face and was forced to undergo surgery on his salivary gland.

"It was the day (U.S. President John F.) Kennedy was shot (in 1963)," he said. "They had to cut my right ear off and peel back my face to get to the salivary gland."

Glanville winces at the memory.

"Before the surgery, they told me I'd have a frozen face, that I'd never be able to smile," he said. "After six hours, the doctor came out and told my mother she should congratulate him because he had just done one hell of a job on her son."

Glanville made a successful recovery and went to work in a mill lifting 100-pound bags of flour.

"Then I got an offer to coach high school football, and they didn't have to ask twice," he said.

Glanville spent three seasons at the high school level before becoming an assistant at Western Kentucky. After one year there, he was hired as an assistant by Georgia Tech.

Bud Carson, the veteran NFL defensive coordinator who is the new head coach of the Cleveland Browns, was the Yellow Jackets' coach who hired Glanville.

"When I first interviewed Jerry, we didn't exactly have a meeting of the minds," Carson said. "He kept pursuing the job and trying to get another interview. I finally gave him one. I decided to hire him, and I'm glad I did because he outcoached a lot of people while he was there.

"Jerry's one of the finest coaches I know. The thing that surprises me is that he hasn't changed a bit. Usually, when you're on the way up, you're forced to make some changes, but not Jerry."

Glanville coached Georgia Tech's defense for six seasons, three of which culminated with bowl games. In 1974, the 33-year-old Glanville got his NFL break—with, ironically, the Lions, his childhood sweetheart. He was hired to coach Detroit's secondary and special teams. A year later, Reese became Detroit's strength and conditioning coach.

"People think Jerry's wild now, but I met him when he wore bib overalls and drove a motorcycle," said Reese, who later spent seven seasons with the Minnesota Vikings before becoming a part of Glanville's first Oiler staff. "He'd take off on these cross-country trips by himself. We envied him.

"Ever since I've known him, Jerry's always been able to do one thing better than anybody I've ever seen—he can kick you right in the butt and make you like it. In one breath, he can tell you that you're the worst to ever play the game, and in the next breath, you're laughing about it.

"In other words, he can get his point across without you hating him. He can make you want to do something better by using wit, criticism or humor."

When Glanville became the Atlanta Falcons' defensive secondary coach in 1977, he worked closely with Atlanta linebackers coach Doug Shively, whom he invited to Houston when he was named the Oilers' full-time coach in 1986 after replacing Hugh Campbell on an interim basis with two games remaining in 1985.

"Jerry's always been very demanding as a coach," Shively said. "His guys always hit hard, and that's never changed. He'd talk some of them into doing it the way he wanted. He'd harass others, and sometimes he'd challenge them physically. I think the most important thing to him is to get the most out of what you've got.

"He wants to win as bad as anybody I've ever seen. When we'd lose in Atlanta, it would take him a couple of days to get over it. He can't show that side of himself as a head coach. He has to bounce back and be upbeat."

Brenda Glanville found out early just how much her husband hates to lose.

"We were dating at the time," she said. "They had lost a game, and we were driving in the car. Jerry was real down. I told him it was just a game and asked him why he did a couple of things. He stopped the car on the side of the freeway and threatened to make me get out if I felt like that. I had a good idea then what life with Jerry Glanville would be like."

Glanville tries to practice self-restraint, but has difficulty controlling his temper. He chases officials and challenges reporters to fights.

"He'll tell you that you're full of crap and mean it, but five minutes later it's over," Reese said.

Dealing with Glanville is like a chess game. He never wants you to know his next move. He wants to keep people guessing. Sometimes he plays dumb, but he's not. Glanville earned his master's degree in psychology and did some work toward a doctorate degree.

"Jerry's very shrewd and intelligent," Reese said. "He can say things in a sarcastic manner, and if you're thin-skinned, you'll mope about it. Let me tell you, though. If you're not sure if he's trying to offend you, then he's not. If he wants to offend you, there won't be any doubt in your mind. He's loyal to his friends. He'll put up with just about anything, but if he thinks you've cheated him or lied to him,



you may as well drop off the face of the earth. Disloyalty hurts him so much it makes him bitter."

Just ask Ted Plumb, the assistant head coach in charge of the Philadelphia Eagles' offense. Plumb and Glanville served together for three years on Lee-man Bennett's Atlanta staff. They were best friends. Their families were close. Plumb took a job with the Bears in 1980. In January 1986, Plumb had two job offers. He could follow Buddy Ryan to the Eagles, or he could become Glanville's offensive coordinator. Plumb promised Glanville that he would come for an interview, but changed his mind. Glanville hasn't spoken to him since.

"He didn't have to take this job, but he guaranteed me he was coming for the interview," Glanville said in a tone still dripping with bitterness. "Everything was set. When you jump out of the boat in the middle of the ride, I don't have any use for it. I like to surround myself with people who do the right thing."

Plumb says he understands.

"I told Jerry I'd come and visit, but I didn't," Plumb said. "He thought I should come down if I said I was. My position was that if I had already made my decision, I didn't need to waste his time. He took it personally, and I understand it. I don't hold it against him, but I am sorry he took it as personally as he did."

That is part of Glanville's personality, the code of honor on which he was reared.

"He's the most individualistic head coach I've ever seen," said San Francisco tight end Jamie Williams, a former Oiler. "He doesn't want to be like anybody else."

Williams came to the Oilers in 1984, the same year as Glanville.

"When I first met him, I thought he was a wild man," Williams said. "When I saw the way he coached the defense, I thought he was crazy. He's still a wild card. He does the same things, but since he's the head coach, he's under a microscope. There's no room for error. The more he shows of his personality, the more he gets attacked by people that just don't understand him. He's happy the way he is, but because of the business he's in, he's having to struggle to maintain it. People want him to conform, but he's fighting not to."

"Coach Glanville has had to fight and struggle to get where he is today, and he seems attracted to people who had to do the same thing. The players he has trouble with are the ones who won't throw their bodies on a grenade for the cause."

"Let me tell you something. He's actually a softie, but if you put pressure on him and back him into a corner, the tougher he gets. He'll come out after you with reckless abandon."

At the risk of offending the NFL establishment, Glanville begs to be unconventional. He's clever and caustic, attributes that won't get him into the Hall of Fame. Despite his success and the two years remaining on his Houston contract, he continues to walk the football tightrope.

"You know what Coach Glanville would be good at if he wasn't coaching football?"



### *Loyalty and honesty are both No. 1 with Glanville.*

Robert Lyles asked. "I think he'd be good at war. He could be a general or the Secretary of Defense. He likes football because it's tough and there's a lot of strategy involved. He has an attack mentality. He'd want to lead the charge."

Williams typecasts Glanville in a different role.

"Coach Glanville reminds me of a modern-day Indiana Jones," he said, "because he's a man who's always looking for an adventure." ■





# STILL CRAZY

*Going against the grain has long been his trademark*





"Say we have a great season and we go to the Super Bowl and win. The bottom line is, what do you go home to? What do you consider happiness? Is happiness winning the Super Bowl? Having a bunch of money? Being famous? To me, happiness is coming home to my family. The rest is all temporary. It all rusts."

—Buffalo Bills defensive end Art Still.

By VIC CARUCCI  
Buffalo News

**W**hen he makes the 20-minute drive home from Rich Stadium, it is to a modest 1,300-square-foot house in the remote town of Glenwood, N.Y. It is to his wife, Liz, and their five children—Afa, Niko, Aquina, Meleana and Luka. It is to a dog named Chi, a monkey named Mono and a long-tailed parrot named Murphy.

It is to those things that put balance in Art Still's life.

close friend Frank Manumaleuga, a native Samoan and a former Chiefs teammate. Still gave it a try and decided he liked sleeping that way.

"It's pretty cheap because you don't have to buy beds," he said, laughing. "Plus, you don't have to worry about the kids climbing out of the crib or rolling off the bed. The only thing you have to worry about is at night, when you have to go to the bathroom, you have to watch where you step.

"It's just great to wake up with the little ones or have the little ones waking you up."

The Stills do use pillows and blankets. And, since moving into the house in the summer of 1988, they've had the hardwood floor carpeted.

"A lot of people say: 'Boy, that's kind of weird, sleeping on the floor like that. Something's wrong with you,'" Still said. "But it's just how you perceive things. I could say it's pretty weird for people to

setting and wearing flannel shirts and jeans. His home while playing for the Chiefs was a 35-acre farm complete with chickens, turkeys, geese and rabbits.

He will be paid \$715,000 this year, more than enough to keep his family in fancy trappings. Yet, there is the modest house in Glenwood.

He practices with so little zest, he seems almost apathetic during the week. Yet, on game day, his enthusiasm is always cranked to the highest level.

And as far as his current employers are concerned, that's all that really matters. The Bills can live with the myriad contradictions as long as Still is ready every Sunday to manhandle opposing linemen, running backs and quarterbacks.

In his first season in Buffalo, Still did just that. He complemented the rest of the Bills' talent-rich defense in '88 by finishing fourth on the team with 79 tackles and third with six sacks. He also forced two fumbles, recovered one and had six pass

# AFTER ALL THESE YEARS

Especially the children—or, as Still calls them, "the little ones." They range in age from 1 to 5, and the only complaint their father has is that there aren't enough of them.

"If I had my choice, I'd probably have 15 little ones," Still said with a perfectly straight face. "As many as we can afford. And what we don't produce, we'll adopt."

In fact, three of the little ones are adopted, while a fourth adoption has been in the works since last fall.

At home, football is rarely discussed or pondered. The children don't care that, at 33, Daddy has undergone a revival as a player since being traded to the Bills by the Kansas City Chiefs on June 23, 1988. They don't care that he was a leading member of the top-ranked defense in the American Football Conference last year. They don't care that he helped the Bills to a 12-4 record, their first AFC East championship since 1980 and the doorstep of Super Bowl XXIII.

The only sport the little ones truly enjoy sharing with him is wrestling. And the 6-foot-7, 270-pound Still is always willing to play along whenever one of them taps him on the leg and says, "Come on, Daddy, try to kick my butt."

A close-knit family? Never is that more apparent than at night, when Still, his wife and all five children sleep together on the floor of the largest bedroom in the house.

That's right: Together, on the floor. Still picked up on this Polynesian custom while visiting Samoa and Hawaii with his

sleep in beds."

In addition to Dad, Mom and the little ones, there also are places in the room for Chi and Mono. Still likes pets, saying they do far more to enhance his children's development than anything he could ever find in a toy store.

"We have a little money and all, but we try not to get our kids hung up on materialistic things," he said. "So, when we buy them gifts, they're usually animals—things that require more responsibility and deal with nature. This way, it will help them to appreciate and learn about the basic things that are very pertinent to our lives."

For Still, the pertinent things are not necessarily the popular ones. "I try not to get caught up with what other people do or the 'in' things going on," he said. "We lead the simple life. As far as having fancy things, to each his own. We're not trying to go out of our way to make ourselves different, although some people might see it that way. This is just the life style we prefer."

If Still seems a bit off the wall, well, he is. Going against the grain has long been his trademark—on and off the field. That's why in many ways, Still is a walking, talking contradiction.

He plays defensive end, a position that connotes a preference for eating raw meat with bare hands. Yet, his diet is devoid of beef; it consists primarily of pasta, rice, bread, beans, raw vegetables and fruit. "Saturday is our party day," he said. "That's when we have chicken." And if it isn't sugarless or distilled, it doesn't pass his lips.

He is a product of urban America, born and raised in the overcrowded projects of Camden, N.J. Yet, he likes living in a rural

deflections, including one that resulted in an interception.

Then, after missing the final regular-season game with a sore knee, Still turned in two of his better performances in the playoffs. He had a team- and season-high 12 tackles in the Bills' 17-10 victory over Houston, and a week later he had nine tackles (all solo) in their 21-10 loss to Cincinnati in the AFC championship game. Still also made himself familiar to Bengals quarterback Boomer Esiason, batting down one of his passes and dumping him with a one-armed sack.

Not bad for a guy who sleeps on the floor and delights in kids, animals and nutritious meals. Though Still comes off as a bit of a flake, the Bills know that once a week for three hours, he's all business. And knowing that, they can view Still with admiration and amusement rather than confusion and concern.

"Arthur's like playing with a Walt Disney character every week," said Bills nose tackle Fred Smerlas, hardly a conventionalist himself. "One day in training camp I said, 'Hey, Arthur. . . .' He said: 'Arthur's not here. He's back in the dorm, sleeping. I'm just a figment of your imagination.' So, the rest of the day, I had to call him 'Figment' in order for him to respond to me.

"Yeah, I'm weird, too. But at least I'm from the planet Earth. We're still having a hard time proving that about Arthur."

Still isn't inclined to worry about proving himself to others, but Buffalo fans weren't exactly sold on the idea that obtaining him from Kansas City last year for two draft picks—an eighth-rounder in 1989 and a fifth-rounder in 1990—was wise. It

*Art Still prefers sleeping on the floor and buying animals, like pet monkey Mono, rather than toys for his kids.*

*Continued*



# STILL CRAZY

was viewed as a risky deal, not so much because of the draft picks but because of the non-refundable \$100,000 bonus the Bills had to pay Still (on top of a \$550,000 base salary) simply for reporting to training camp.

There was ample reason to believe Still wasn't the same player who had made four trips to the Pro Bowl in the early '80s. There was the matter of his age (32 at the start of last season, his 11th in the National Football League). And there was an alleged attitude problem about which former Chiefs coach Frank Gansz openly complained. Gansz considered Still a disruptive force.

Through four exhibition games, Still, like most of his Buffalo teammates, was anything but spectacular. But that didn't stop the Bills from making the deal even riskier late in the preseason by trading Sean McNanie, whom Still had unseated as their starting left end, to Phoenix.

Either the Bills knew something everyone else didn't, or they had made a terrible mistake.

The answer came September 4 when the Bills opened their season against Minnesota. Still had five tackles and two sacks and caused an interception with a tipped pass in Buffalo's 13-10 victory.

"Art Still is at the top of his game," Bills Coach Marv Levy said after the game. "He's a little older than most guys who are at the top of their games, but I know the type of condition he's in. I know he has football temperament. I have a lot of faith in the way he's going to perform, lay it on the line, based on what I've seen over the five years I was in Kansas City and a couple of years since."

Levy was in his first year as Kansas City's coach when the Chiefs made Still, a consensus All-America at Kentucky, the second overall pick of the 1978 draft. Another current Bills coach, defensive coordinator Walt Corey, was with the Chiefs during much of Still's tenure in Kansas City, and Corey was similarly impressed by Still's performance against the Vikings.

"Heck, he's played his position as well as anyone has in the history of the game itself," Corey said. "And he still does. The guy is truly amazing."

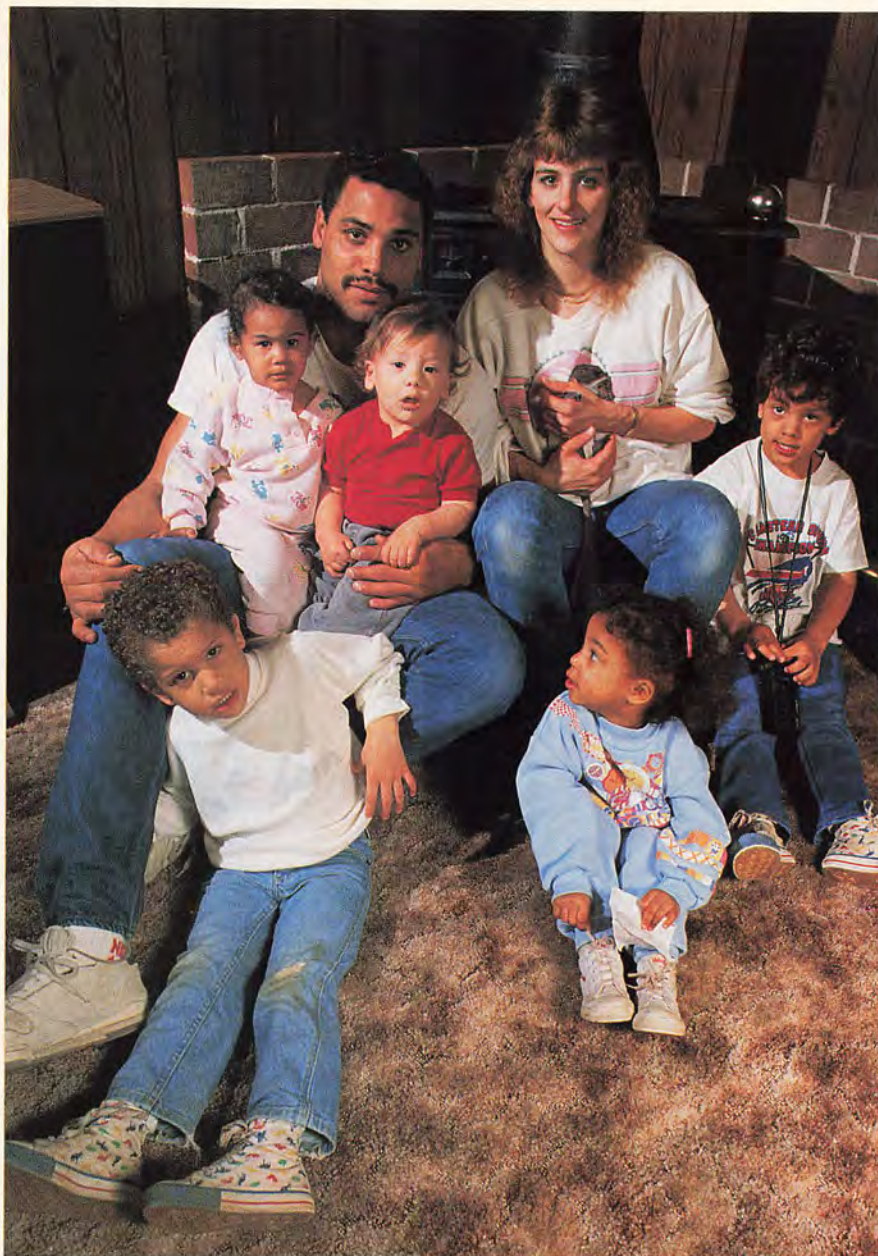
Corey and Still have always worked well together. Before the Minnesota game, for example, Corey had reminded Still that he needed to play particularly hard because of the absence of standout right end Bruce Smith, who had been suspended two days earlier for substance abuse.

"Gee, and I thought I came here for a rest," Still said, smiling.

Corey just laughed and walked away, not fazed in the least by the wisecrack. He knew Still would deliver, which, of course, he did.

Still knows he never could have had such a lighthearted exchange with Gansz, whose drill-sergeant approach to coaching simply wouldn't permit it.

"With Gansz, if you didn't have a cer-



*Happiness, according to Still, is coming home to wife Liz and the little ones: (from left) Niko, 4; Meleana, 2; Luka, 1; Aquina, 2; and Afa, 5.*

tain personality or certain type of mentality, if you didn't do things a certain way, automatically you were considered disruptive," he said.

Still discovered that at the start of Gansz's first training camp as the Chiefs' head coach in 1987. The players were standing around Gansz, listening as he gave one of his many pep talks, when he suddenly slapped his chest hard and pretended to shoot the entire squad with a gun while yelling, "Expect the unexpected!"

"I don't know if it was something from his military days or what," Still said. "But the point is, it's supposed to teach you to expect the unexpected. When he does that, the players are supposed to duck. Well, the entire team ducked except for me. I'm a 31-year-old guy with four kids (at that time). I'm thinking, 'What is this?'"

"But I didn't duck, so suddenly I'm labeled disruptive and I'm trying to be an

individual and all that. I was supposed to be a bad influence on the younger guys. I was insubordinate, or whatever it is in military terms.

"So, since I didn't duck, Frank said: 'Art Still, you just got killed. You've got to expect the unexpected.' Then he went through another speech. And when he was done, he did it again. Slap! Boom! I didn't duck that time, either. I was in big trouble now."

"As I headed off the field, I was talking to a couple of the other coaches. They said, 'Art, you've just got to go along with it.' I said: 'Man, I couldn't duck the second time. I had already gotten killed the first time. How many times are you allowed to die in this game?'"

In Gansz's eyes, Still might as well have been dead. The first sign came during the following off-season, when Still noticed his

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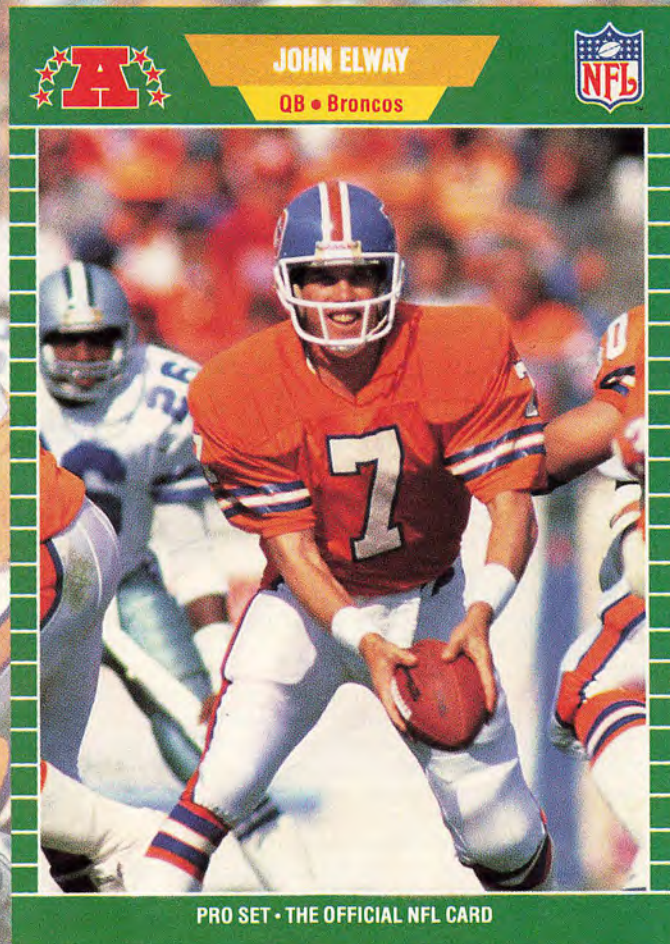
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*Still has a tendency to sleepwalk through practices, but it's obvious he reserves his energy for game day.*

## STILL CRAZY

name wasn't mentioned in the 1988 prospectus prepared by the team's public relations department. Gansz told him it was merely an oversight.

Still then watched the highlight film of Kansas City's '87 season. He listened carefully to the narration and never once heard his name, despite having led Chiefs defensive linemen with 80 tackles that year. The Chiefs couldn't have overlooked their all-time leader in sacks (72½), a former All-Pro who had averaged almost 100 tackles a season over 10 years. This time, Still knew there was no mistake.

On draft day, the Chiefs used the second overall pick to select Nebraska defensive end Neil Smith. Two months later, Still was shipped to Buffalo, where Gansz's disruptive force became Levy's defensive force.

Corey, who had left Kansas City the year before to rejoin Levy in Buffalo, was so glad to be reunited with Still that he offered to drive to Kansas City and pick

him up personally.

"I never had a problem with Art Still, attitude-wise," Corey said. "So it's difficult for me to say, 'Well, this guy changed overnight that way.' I've always had a good rapport with Art, and I know, on Sundays, he performs."

Which would cast doubt on the theory that Still's tendency to sleepwalk through practices was a problem.

"I don't recall that he's ever been a yell-and-holler, whoop-it-up kind of guy in practice," Levy said. "But I don't ever remember him being late for practice. I don't ever remember seeing him miss five assignments in practice in all of the years he played. He's always there and he's going to carry out what you do."

Said Still: "During the week, you want to get yourself geared mentally, as far as putting yourself in the position you're supposed to be. But as far as going out there and blowing yourself out or just going to the extreme, that's a different story. I like to reserve what little energy I have for the weekend. I don't want to tear my body up during the week with nicks and bumps

and stuff from practice and bring them into the game."

Corey and Levy appreciate Still's outlook and make no attempt to alter it. In return, Still appreciates playing for them.

"If you're in an environment where you enjoy your employers and the people working alongside of you, I think it has something to do with your being productive," he said. "It only makes sense, if you have that type of relationship between a player, a coach and an organization, you can go a little bit farther than if you have turmoil—when it's a situation where you're just going strictly for the money, where it's just a job."

"One thing I appreciate about Walt and Marv is that they don't try and change an individual, try to make him into a robot or whatever. They know there are so many different personalities on a defense and a team."

Still's is as different as they come.

"If a guy is going to have an irreverent life style," Levy said, "that's the kind of irreverent life style that I prefer a guy have." ■







# CHAMPION OF DEFENSE

*When in uniform, Rams royal blue and gold or Army green, Kevin Greene tries to be all he can be*

By KEVIN SCARBINSKY  
Birmingham News

**P**ick almost any game, and a thousand sideline philosophers have reduced it to an analogy of something else, something real, something big.

Baseball is the essence of spring as it blossoms every year with the posies. Basketball is inner-city youths rising above the rim and their dead-end surroundings.

And then we have football. Football always gets lined up across from something bigger, something even more real. Foot-

ball isn't a season or a sociological metaphor.

Football is war. On a slightly smaller, less lethal scale, but football is war.

"It's combat as fundamental as the

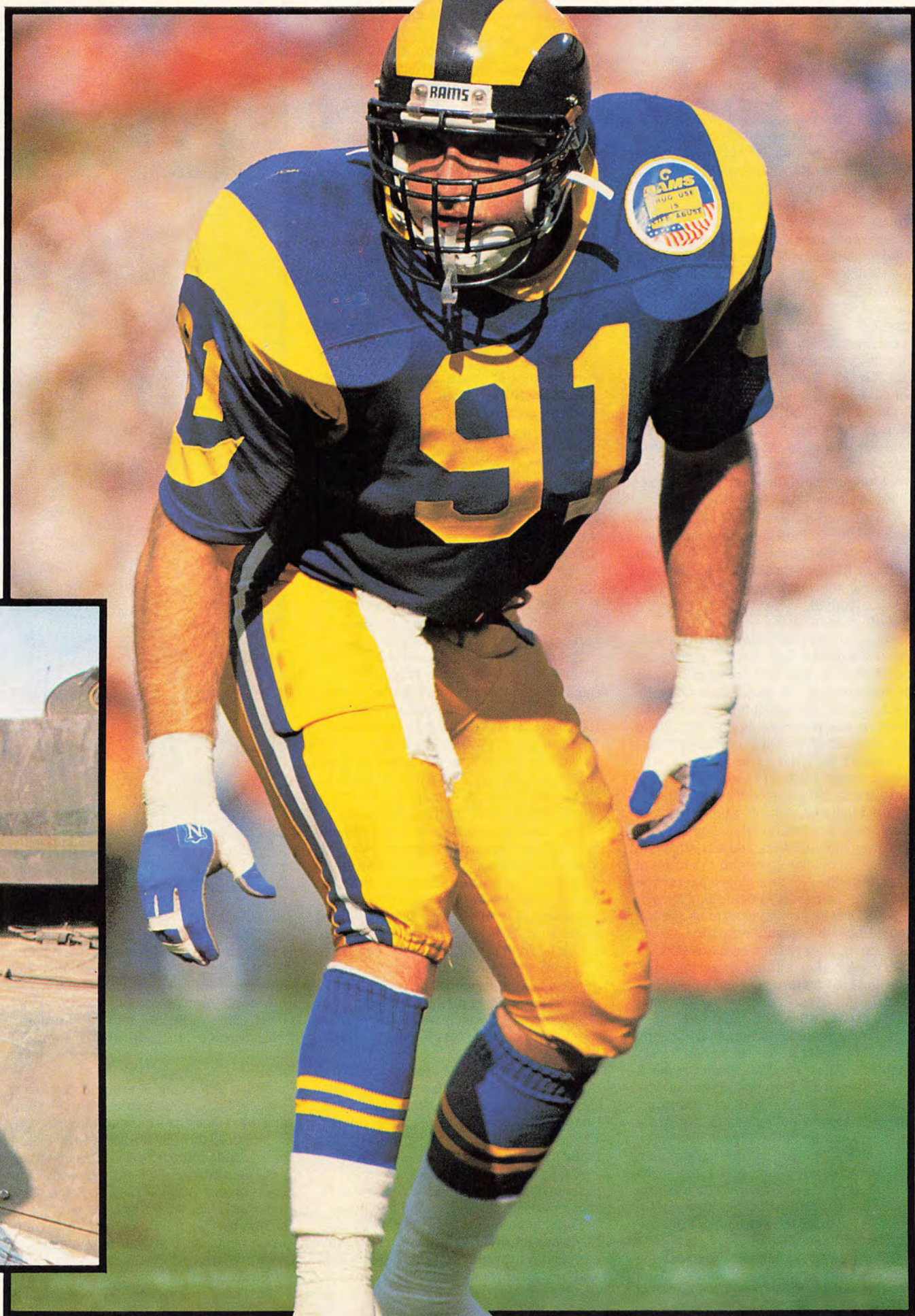
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*Kevin Greene does not march in lock step with the premise that football and war are brothers in arms:*

*"There's really no connection when you get right down to reality (war), and a game."*







# CHAMPION

game itself: center versus nose guard. They line up two inches apart, maybe less, and the collisions they produce ultimately dictate the level of the battles all up and down the line." (Paul Zimmerman in *Sports Illustrated*, September 9, 1987.)

"The old warrior fights his battles from a desk now..." (Frank Deford in "The World's Tallest Midget.")

"Shared sacrifice and hardship will bond football players the same way it will bond soldiers. The greater the hardship, the stronger the bond... They were like the men of Stonewall Jackson's brigade—marched like no infantrymen had ever been marched before." (Geoffrey Norman in "Alabama Showdown: The Football Rivalry Between Auburn and Alabama.")

The words of war have been planted so deep in the football mind—and the wartime experience of the United States has faded so far from our memory—that the sport and the battle become interchangeable, variations on a bloody theme.

Teams march down the field. Quarterbacks with machine-gun arms throw bullets. Bombs land in the end zone. Linemen battle in the trenches and field generals command the huddles. Football... war. War... football.

*Halt!*

Negative, says Kevin Greene. He falls out of the ranks right here. He does not march in lock step with the premise that football and war are brothers in arms. Indeed, he does an about-face in loud and clear terms, his voice intent enough to melt the hair off a drill sergeant's chest.

"There's really no connection," he said, "when you get right down to reality (war), and a game. No connection."

Call back the similes and retire the metaphors. Kevin Greene has spoken.

Wait a minute. Who, you ask, is Kevin Greene? And what gives him the brass to contradict the sideline philosophers who can trace their roots to Grantland Rice?

Well, Greene just happens to be the National Football League's only starting outside linebacker/Army reserve officer. Every year after putting away the royal blue-and-gold uniform of the Los Angeles Rams, the 27-year-old fifth-year pro slips on the green fatigues of Uncle Sam.

During the past off-season, Greene served 2½ weeks as part of an active-duty unit at Ft. Knox, Ky. He has been a member of the Army National Guard in Missouri and Alabama and was commissioned a second lieutenant in the Army reserves while at Auburn University. After every football season he serves a military hitch up to six weeks as an officer in the reserves. Greene, who was promoted to captain after his stint at Ft. Knox, is qualified to command a tank platoon and fire a tank gun.

OK, so he knows something about the military. But what about football? Isn't this the same Kevin Greene who played only two years at Auburn and had never

even started a pro game before last season?

It is. But Greene blossomed as a football player in 1988, establishing himself as one of the league's top outside linebackers. After three years of coming off the bench, the 6-foot-3, 238-pounder started 14 of 16 games for the Rams and finished second in the NFL with 16½ sacks.

Greene was spurred last season by his legendary determination—"100 percent all the time," said his position coach with the Rams, Fred Whittingham—and a weekly \$100 bet with teammate Gary Jeter for the man with the most sacks. He started the '88 season ablaze, taking down the quarterback 10 times in the Rams' first six games.

A five-game sackless slump followed, and some observers wondered if Greene's hot start had been a flash fire rather than the beginning of steady heat from the left outside linebacker spot.

Rams Coach John Robinson didn't sweat it. "It's like a guy who hits .400 and then drops to .320," he said. "What's wrong with .320?"

There was nothing wrong with Greene, who picked up two more sacks in weeks 12 through 15 and closed the regular season with an incendiary 4½ sacks against the San Francisco 49ers in the victory that put Los Angeles in the playoffs. That put him just 1½ sacks behind league-leading Reggie White of Philadelphia but didn't get him in the Pro Bowl, where his position coach believed he belonged.

"I don't think there was any more dominating linebacker in the league," Whittingham said. "When you take the whole realm of things as a complete linebacker, Kevin fits in the top 10 in the league. When you say, 'Where does he fit in as just a pass rusher?' he fits in the top five. And when you say, 'Where does he fit in as far as taking on the tight end who's blocking him?' then he fits in at the top."

High praise for a man whose pro football resume was rather ordinary a year ago, whose college experience was limited because he arrived at Auburn as a 185-pound weakling without a scholarship, whose decision to walk on as a freshman ended in failure when he walked off two weeks later, not to return for three years.

"He was as raw as they come when we got him," Whittingham said, "with the exception that he was a football player."

And a soldier, which would seem to be the perfect dual career. Football... war. War... football.

But when you run the idea up a flagpole in his presence, Greene does not salute. He wants to make it perfectly clear that linebacker Kevin Greene and soldier Kevin Greene are two separate animals living under one blond roof.

*Atten-shun!*

"I can build a scenario for you," he said, "but I want you to understand one thing."

The way he says it, softly but menacingly, means no raw recruit ever tried to understand a drill instructor as hard as you will try to understand this scenario. Greene can get so intense, Rams teammate Doug Reed once compared him to



Hulk Hogan.

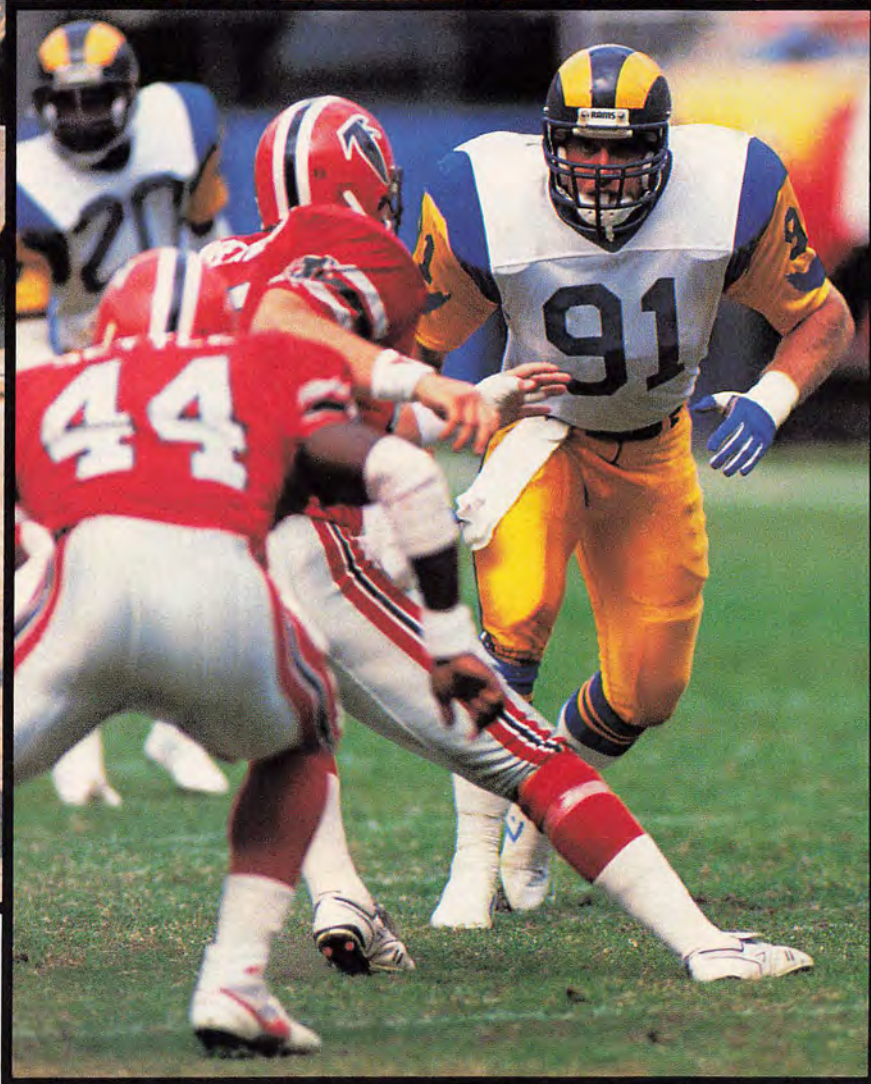
"What I'm doing right now, playing football, is a game," he said. "It's a game. What those people are doing at Fort Knox and every military base here and across the world, they're training for war, which is as close to reality as you can come. When you're talking about someone shooting at you, war and battle, that's real."

"What I'm doing is a game. You can't even begin to compare those two. A game and war—you can't compare them."

Because Greene crosses that bridge every year, comparisons are as inevitable and plentiful as Vietnam movies. The sparse living room of his off-season home in Oxford, Ala., stands as a shrine to battle of one sort or another. Next to a Rams team photo on one wall hangs a plaque from the active-duty unit he joined briefly at Ft. Knox.

"1st Lt. Kevin Greene," it reads. "XOD Troop 110 Cav. Dogs of War."





*Greene, qualified to command a tank platoon, rushed the passer in tank-like fashion in 1988, ranking second in the NFL in sacks.*

"That's their motto," he said, working himself into a vocal frenzy unparalleled since Robert "I love the smell of napalm in the morning" Duvall surfed the cinema beaches of Vietnam in "Apocalypse Now." "We are the dogs of war. I'm a football player, an NFL athlete. They are the dogs of war. War. Waaaaar. We're talking war, man."

In one corner of the room hang player of the week trophies from the Rams. Behind the front door stand a light anti-tank weapon and a tank shell that is, "of course, a dummy."

One might assume a football player gravitates toward fatigues and black boots as a result of his game, seeing the

commonalities in both occupations. But in Greene's case his motivation was even more basic than his game.

It was his family.

Sir, yes, sir!

Therman Greene's military career began about the time America's sense of invincibility began to end. He was a member of the Reserve Officers' Training Corps at Jacksonville State, a small Alabama university near Oxford, and was commissioned a second lieutenant in 1959. One tour of duty in Korea, one in Vietnam, several countries and 27 years later, he retired from the Army as a full colonel on June 1, 1986.

Somewhere along the line, through his

blood or his breath or both, Therman Greene's love of the military passed on to his two sons, Keith and Kevin.

Keith, two years older than Kevin, is a captain and helicopter pilot in the regular Army at Ft. Campbell, Ky. He showed his leanings early, "playing with toy helicopters since the time he could lift one," said his mother, Patricia Greene, who has followed her husband around the world and raised four children—Keith, Kevin and two daughters.

While in high school in Granite City, Ill., Keith spent time in the Scott Air Force Base hospital alongside real-life soldiers,

*Continued*



# CHAMPION

and that experience convinced him where his future lay. Kevin worked in a youth program at the base. When Keith joined the National Guard just across the state line in Missouri, it was natural that Kevin would join, too. They were close as only brothers can be, bonded by blood and bloody noses. "Keith," Kevin said, "is my role model, a pillar of strength for me."

They played on youth football teams together, one at quarterback and the other at halfback, with their father on the sideline as coach. Keith would throw Kevin a pass, or vice versa, and people would say, "Another Greene-Greene combination."

When Keith accepted an ROTC scholarship to Auburn, back in his parents' home state, Kevin's college choice two years later was made. "That's the only place Kevin wanted to go," his father said.

But Auburn played Division I-A football. Kevin Greene, an honorable mention all-conference player at Granite City High School, wasn't big enough or talented enough to merit a Division I-A scholarship.

So, he went through National Guard basic training at Ft. McClellan in Alabama before joining Keith at Auburn. Doug Barfield was beginning his last season as the Tigers' head coach when Kevin arrived in 1980 as a 185-pound freshman.

Fresh, or more accurately, spent from basic training, Greene walked on that fall. Two weeks later he walked off.

"He said: 'Dad, I'm not a quitter,'" Therman Greene recalled. "I'm going to try again. I'm going to make this football team."

For three years he aimed at that goal, devoting six days a week to the weight room at a fitness center in downtown Auburn. Greene also began a lifter's diet of protein powder, amino acids, vitamins and other supplements that still fill a cupboard in his kitchen. Steroids, he said, have never been part of his diet.

When he wasn't lifting or eating, Greene was sitting in ROTC class or working at summer camp with the Alabama National Guard or "rolling little fraternity guys around" as a noseguard in an intramural football league alongside Keith on the ROTC team.

On June 10, 1982, Keith graduated from Auburn and was commissioned a second lieutenant in the Army, while Kevin was commissioned a second lieutenant in the Army reserves, 15 months before playing his first college football game.

By that time, the fall of 1983, Kevin's three years of weight training had paid off. He was 50 pounds heavier, and he made the Auburn team as a junior walk-on. He played as a backup defensive end that season, then became a starter as a senior and was named the team's defensive player of the year after leading the Tigers with 11 sacks. The Rams took him in the fifth round of the 1985 draft.

The opportunity to play pro football, however, did not make him forget his mil-

itary roots. His brother already was three years into his Army career, and Kevin was not about to ignore his responsibilities as a reserve officer. It was a proud Therman Greene who watched his younger son carry on his military legacy while trying to carve out a career in the NFL.

But all the Greenes maintain that Therman has been no stage father. Although he led his family from Alabama to New York to Kansas to Virginia to Germany to

Illinois, he would not drag his sons down his career path.

"I never, never encouraged them to make the military a career," he said. "Never. The Vietnam War was coming to an end, and it was not a good time, I thought, you would want your children to get into the military."

"But having said that, when they let me have an indication they were interested, I sat down with them and talked about it. I



*Linebacker Greene and soldier Greene are two separate animals. He doesn't like to talk football during Army duty, and vice versa.*



said: 'Here's the benefits. Here's what defending your country's all about.'"

Those father-son talks scored direct hits with Kevin. So did childhood memories of his dad's year in Vietnam, 1968-69, when the only communication between father and family was a series of cassette tapes.

"One thing I definitely remember," Kevin said. "Every once in a while on a cassette you could hear the sound of bullets flying overhead, incoming mortars on his firebase. He'd say: 'I've got to go now, honey, to the protective bunker. The Viet Cong are starting to shell our bunker. I've got to go. Bye.'"

"You don't forget that."

But that hasn't stopped Kevin from wanting to spend part of his football off-seasons as a soldier.

"One reason (he serves in the reserves), I guess, is to really be grateful and realize the position I'm in right now being a football player," he said. "These other guys, every day of every year they're getting up at 4:30 in the morning and they're running three miles and doing PT (physical training) three times a week and getting off at 5, 6 at night for our national defense.

"Another reason is I feel I'm putting in my little bit toward the national defense."

Greene obviously is in favor of a strong national defense, which he ranks ahead of caring for the homeless on his list of social concerns. Some needs, he believes, can't be addressed before freedom is assured.

"I'm grateful for the fact we don't have a Russian on the corner with an AK-47 watching every move we make," he said.

Greene's dedication to his country's cause is genuine. He takes his duties seriously, as Capt. Don Bothwell, Greene's troop company commander at Ft. Knox, discovered last winter. The captain didn't know Greene was an NFL player until the day he arrived, but he expected the worst when he found out.

"I was expecting a lot of self-centeredness on his part," Bothwell said, "the jock attitude many of us think of and

associate with pro sports."

Instead, Bothwell found a soldier who didn't talk about football during duty hours, who kept his appearance up to strict military standards and who asked questions constantly, even of soldiers below him in rank.

"Here's a guy who makes, I would guess, three times what I make," Bothwell said. "His first words to me were, 'I'm here to learn.'"

"He's very sincere in his dedication to the military. I'd take him on as a regular soldier in a heartbeat. I would gladly work with him as a peer anytime. He's a good man and a good soldier."

Greene tends to keep his separate lives separate. Bothwell said Greene was "introverted" about discussing his NFL life while at Ft. Knox, where he served as second in command to the captain, overseeing the supply room and a motor pool of 14 battle tanks, two jeeps and one 2½-ton truck. With the Rams, Greene's only concession to his military alter ego is a photo in his locker of him standing beside two tanks.

"He doesn't talk a lot about that Army stuff," said Whittingham, who has coached Greene each of his four years in the NFL. "He's a very unassuming, modest-type person. Kevin's not the type of guy to go around bragging or broadcasting everything he does."

*At ease!*

Comparisons to Hulk Hogan aside, chest-out Hollywood arrogance doesn't sit well back in sleepy Oxford, a central Alabama town about midway between Birmingham and Atlanta and worlds away from Los Angeles. He is "grateful for what L.A.'s done for me," he said, "but I see myself as a good-ol' country boy who likes clean air."

When he isn't driving tanks or sacking quarterbacks, Greene enjoys all that Oxford has to offer. He likes being able to hop on his dirt bike and in 10 minutes find himself in the mountains, sipping water from a cool stream. He likes open roads on which to drive his two motorcycles, his black Trans Am and his red Porsche (California plate "SO BAAAD"). He likes living a short walk down the street from his parents. He likes the opportunity to relax, to kick back and enjoy the peace and quiet, to reflect on the course of events that brought him to where he is today.

From college walk-on to fifth-round draft choice to second in the NFL in sacks. From a soldier's son to captain in the Army reserves. What is it they say? "Be all that you can be." That's not just a catchy recruiting commercial. It's the story of Kevin Greene's life, which one day, after he has led the league in sacks—Whittingham said he is capable of an unheard-of 25 or 30 sacks a season—and physically can't play anymore, might find him emulating his brother as a helicopter pilot or using his criminal-justice degree from Auburn as an FBI agent.

"I like the title: Federal Bureau of Investigation," he said. "It's a good title, just like U.S. Army paratrooper. You're different."

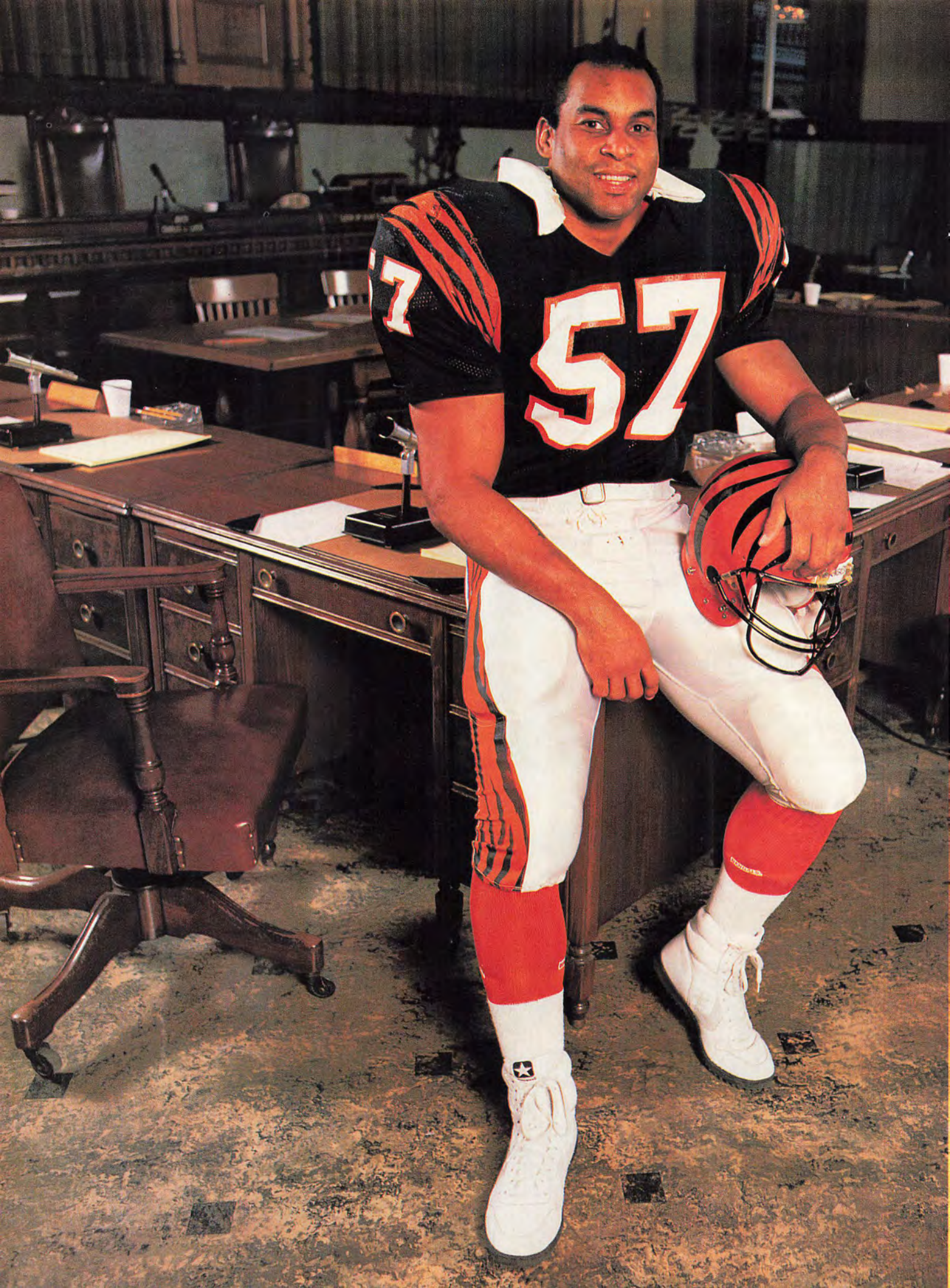
Sound crazy? So does chasing down quarterbacks in December and chasing down tanks in January. So does living a football and military life and rejecting comparisons between the two. So does this sentence that parades out between spits of tobacco: "I want the world."

Given his record, the world might be advised to brace itself.

*Forward, march! ■*











# BENGAL ON THE BALLOT

*Reggie Williams believes he can handle two campaigns at once*

By JACK BRENNAN  
Cincinnati Post

**P**icture this scene, this fall, from inside the locker room of the defending American Football Conference champions:

"Nice job on that nickel blitz last Sunday," the veteran linebacker tells the rookie safety. "And by the way, did you know the city could nickel-and-dime you to death with Councilman Joe Schmoe's proposed earnings tax?"

"Here's a copy of my position paper on the issue—just slide it inside your playbook for now—and please remember to go to the polls on November 7."

A realistic scenario? Perhaps. The Cincinnati Bengals do have a politician among them in linebacker Reggie Williams, who will be running for reelection

*Reggie Williams, who will be running for reelection to the Cincinnati City Council this fall, has promised the Bengals that his politicking won't disrupt the team's drive for a second straight Super Bowl trip.*

to the Cincinnati City Council this fall. In all likelihood, though, Williams' campaign trail won't begin at Riverfront Stadium. Williams has promised the Bengals that his politicking won't disrupt the team's drive for a second straight Super Bowl trip. And some would contend that Williams couldn't buy a vote inside the Cincinnati locker room anyway—not after becoming the first player on a strong pro-union team to cross the picket line during the National Football League players strike in 1987.

But regardless of how much political support he gets from his teammates, this will be an unusual autumn for Williams, who was appointed to fill a City Council vacancy in the summer before the 1988 season—his 13th in the NFL.

"I suffer under a barrage of Jay Leno-type broadsides," Williams conceded. "My critics on the political side say, 'He's really just a football player,' and my critics on the football side say, 'He's nothing but a politician.'"

Williams, who will turn 35 a few weeks before the election, also has been ribbed for years because of a penchant for pur-

*Continued*



# BENGAL

ple prose. He once described himself during training camp as "a bubbling volcano, just trying to stem the explosion so I can keep the juices flowing all the way through January." On another occasion he explained why he had a musical note (a "crescendo forte") tattooed on his right forearm: "It's the musical symbol for a rising, sharp, thunderous note, and I'd like to think it symbolizes the way I make a tackle." And that's just the tip of the iceberg. Williams' potential for gab during a football-and-election campaign is enough, cynics say, to make Cincinnati storekeepers brace for a run on earplugs.

But jokes aside, no one has detected any substantive flaws in Williams' handling of his two full-time jobs thus far.

His linebacking was solid throughout the 1988 season, and it peaked in the play-offs toward a superb finish in Super Bowl XXIII. Had the Bengals hung on to defeat San Francisco at Miami's Joe Robbie Stadium, his game-high 10 tackles (nine solo) plus a sack could have earned him a Most Valuable Player award.

Williams' politicking, meanwhile, has been energetic, aggressive and free of serious rookie mistakes. The only thing he hasn't shown he can handle is campaigning, and he has not yet had the chance.

Williams is, in the final analysis, a man most Cincinnatians admire—at least in the sense that he gives everything a mighty effort.

He is too intelligent to be dismissed as a mere windbag, making sense more often than not, and he's dedicated as well, with a long record of public-service involvement to validate time spent on a soapbox. Winner of the NFL's prestigious Man of the Year award in 1986 and the NFL Players Association's Byron "Whizzer" White Humanitarian Award in 1985, Williams has long been recognized for his community service.

Williams has suffered from a hearing disability since childhood, and working with the hearing-impaired has long been a focus of his community service commitment. He is a former vice president of the National Association for Hearing and Speech Action.

"My hearing disability is something that will never be cured," he said. "It's been more a process of learning to cope with it. And when I was younger, it was the cause of several educators saying I would never be able to make it academically at an Ivy League school."

Williams, never one to sidestep a challenge, went to Dartmouth and graduated in just 3½ years. He excelled in spite of his hearing impairment and the consequent speech problems that still require him to enunciate each word clearly.

"Sometimes I've been criticized for what people consider to be an affectation in the way I speak," he said. "But if I

sometimes sound like I'm trying overly hard to speak precisely, it's because I have to do that for it to come out right."

Williams makes numerous public speaking appearances in his work with other organizations such as the United Way and Big Brothers and Big Sisters of Greater Cincinnati. He is one who believes it isn't always best to work quietly behind the scenes, even if his style inevitably leads to accusations of grandstanding.

"I thought I had something to offer that was not on the table," Williams said when asked why he decided to take up politics before he was ready to give up football. "I thought that what I had to offer could benefit a great number of citizens in Cincinnati."

"I also hoped I could affect the thinking of the public at large, which has begun to look at the pro athlete in a soured way and at the politician in a soured way."

"Here was a unique opportunity to be a positive role model, especially as a black athlete, and unlike some people who will criticize you (for earning publicity), I don't think it's a crime to strive to be a role model."

Even when his chosen roles leave him almost no spare time to catch his breath.

"It was a daily challenge last (football) season," Williams admitted. "Time was an enemy, because there just wasn't enough of it."

Though the Bengals allowed Williams to miss Wednesday afternoon practice when the City Council was in session, they granted no other special favors.

"And that was quite appropriate on their part," Williams said. "But I still get hurt playing football, I still need time to heal, and there were many times that I had to focus on (government) issues when I had something throbbing."

"I also had to learn so much—from waste disposal to urban development to community health care. I had to go to that after studying video for the (football) game plan of the week, and quite honestly, some of that stuff is not the most appealing nighttime reading."

But it's important to Williams, whose political agenda focuses on substance-abuse prevention, health care and day care for children. If it's so important, though, shouldn't he consider shelving his shoulder pads in favor of full-time pursuit of these worthy causes? Not necessarily, said Williams, who needs "to be challenged completely to do my best in all areas." And besides, after 13 years of bruises and two knee operations, football still has him hooked.

"It's pure love," he said of his feeling for the game, "and love is irrational. There might be some rational things I could be doing that would be a better use of opportunity, but I love the game and I also have this desire to be a world champion."

World champion—it's the title for

*Williams has long been recognized for his community service.*

which all major league athletes strive, but some with more lip service and less real hunger than others.

Some players can retire with minds at rest even if they've never reached the top, comfortable in the knowledge that they've played hard and exceptionally well by any normal man's standards. But Williams, who has played well for many years but has never made the Pro Bowl, isn't one of them. It isn't so much the individual recognition he desires, but the personal satisfaction of contributing to a team that won it all. That is why, had the Bengals won the nail-biter that was Super Bowl XXIII, he wouldn't be in training camp this summer.

"That would have been my last game if we had won," he said. "It still could have been a good time to walk away. I could have said that my last game was perhaps the greatest of my career, in the most challenging of circumstances."

"But it wasn't enough. Someone like Randy Cross (of the 49ers) could announce before the game that he planned to retire, but he had won two Super Bowls, one of them against us."

Now Cross has three Super Bowl rings, two won from Cincinnati. And Williams has a craving that just keeps getting stronger.

"I have a very strong desire to some-





where along the line be the best at what I do," Williams said, "and in that sense, there's a sense of unfinished business. Being the best is a righteous goal for an athlete, and that has been probably the most elusive experience of my long career."

To be sure, Williams has come a long way in football. A native of Flint, Mich., Williams was offered no athletic scholarships out of high school. He is fond of noting that Michigan Coach Bo Schembechler "said I wasn't good enough to play for him." So, he went to Dartmouth, where he was an All-Ivy League linebacker three straight years. He left school with a degree in psychology and was selected by Cincinnati in the third round of the 1976 draft. He quickly became a starter and established a reputation as an aggressive tackler and a good pass defender. But he has always come up just short in terms of the supreme individual and team achievements.

"The reality is that I'll probably never be named All-Pro, even though I think I've had some very good years on teams that got very little recognition," he said. "And the last time I was a champion was when we were Ivy League champs at Dartmouth in 1973. Since then I've been AFC Central champs and AFC champs, but I've never been a Super Bowl champion. I've

never sat at the apex among my peers."

Williams claims to hold no illusions about the Bengals cruising unchallenged into Super Bowl XXIV.

"It's going to be a lot more difficult than any of our optimistic fans suspect it will be," he said. "It will be hard to be as hungry as we were last season, and we were one of the hardest-hit teams in losing free agents (nine players gone)."

Williams isn't kidding himself in thinking he can help Cincinnati because the Bengals have little other proven talent at outside linebacker. And after coming so close to a championship last year, it's unthinkable for him to abandon the quest.

"I'm rational enough to know the odds against winning," he said, "but the key is to know that before I retired, I exhausted every last reasonable chance."

"If I have one regret about graduating from Dartmouth in 3½ years, it's that by graduating early, I deprived myself the chance of competing for a national (heavyweight) wrestling title as a senior. I had gone to the nationals and lost (in the preliminary round) as a junior, and I never had the chance to redeem myself. I don't want to have that regret about football."

As was the case last season, Williams' emotional role with the 1989 Bengals is likely to be a curious one. He is an elder

statesman who is somewhat of an island unto himself inside the locker room.

He has played too well for too long not to be respected by most of his teammates, and his demeanor toward his peers has been friendly and supportive for the most part. But Williams always has been considered somewhat of an intellectual showboat by some teammates, and his chances of closing his career as the team's spiritual leader were shot when he defied the call to strike two years ago.

This situation, like the odds against winning Super Bowl XXIV, is a fact of life Williams accepts.

"I used to want to be liked by everyone, until I majored in psychology at Dartmouth," he said. "I turned my cheek and nauseam during the 1987 season. Those who were upset about my stand during the strike took every First Amendment liberty to attack me. I chose to never return a volley."

His involvement in an election campaign could serve to further distance Williams from a position as one of the guys. But he promises not to let it disrupt team business or make him a nervous wreck.

"Everyone gives me the horror stories about campaigning," Williams said. "It's obviously not pleasant to have to beg for money and votes, or to have to worry about your opponents being everywhere you aren't. Plus, there will be weekends when I will be on the road, playing for the pride of the city, and unable to campaign."

"It will create a reelection disadvantage, but I can only hope that the record will speak more than the campaigning."

Political observers in Cincinnati say Williams has nothing to worry about. Cincinnati councilmen are elected on an at-large basis, with everyone running against everyone else, and name recognition alone should put Williams among the top nine who get council seats.

Cynics would say that Williams knows that all too well and that his self-sacrificing attitude about being out of town is self-serving. But clearly, Williams works too hard and sounds too sincere to be dismissed as a sham.

"I grew up having a certain respect for high office," he said. "I remember people crying when the President was assassinated. I also believe, even if it sounds corny, that the success of democracy is based on people investing a little of their time into local government."

"The thing I like most about this is the feeling I'm doing an important job, and that because I'm still playing football, I don't have an ego investment in being a councilman. My ego is still on the football field, and as a councilman, I am sincerely trying to serve the interest of the greater good of Cincinnati."

The football fans of Cincinnati have always liked Reggie Williams, and voters are likely to concur this November. And should Williams get the most votes of the nine candidates elected—which is possible but not likely—he won't be just a football-playing councilman anymore.

According to the city charter, he'll become Cincinnati's mayor as well. ■





# BEARS IN

## *Mike Singletary, Steve McMichael and Dan Hampton form the core of Chicago's outstanding defense*

By DAN POMPEI  
Chicago Sun-Times

**W**hile Chicago's erstwhile Bermuda Triangle of Mike Singletary, Otis Wilson and Wilber Marshall produced a cute nickname and poster to match, the Bears have seen the rise of another triangle that has produced nothing but defensive dominance.

A nickname? Forget it. Singletary and defensive tackles Dan Hampton and Steve McMichael haven't marketed themselves as "The New Bermuda Triangle" because gimmicks don't sit well with these three. They're more interested in hard hits than marketing hits.

Even if, geometrically speaking, "The New Bermuda Triangle" makes perfect sense. The original Bermuda Triangle consisted of three linebackers who formed a single line—that is, until Marshall signed a free-agent contract with Washington in March 1988 and Wilson signed with the Los Angeles Raiders after spending the '88 season on injured reserve. Taking their place as the Bears' defensive core was a trio that actually formed a triangle—Hampton and McMichael side by side on the line, with Singletary centered behind them.

No matter. As far as they're concerned, the Bermuda Triangle is history. They do, however, acknowledge that they form a unit—the one around which the Bears' outstanding defense is built.

"As a middle linebacker, you know where your bread is buttered," Singletary said. "Steve McMichael and Dan Hampton are the two tackles in front of me and always are the two most important people to me. There's a bond between Steve and Hamp, and I'm the guy in the middle trying to remind them of things and holler-ing."

"They do what they do extremely well, and we work well as a unit."

So well, in fact, that the Bears' defense has ranked first or second in the National Football League for each of the last five years. During that time, only Singletary, Hampton, McMichael and end Richard Dent have been steady defensive starters.

"An old baseball coach once said, 'If you're good up the middle, you've got a chance,'" Hampton said. "The great dominant teams always had good people in the middle. For years we've been very good at safety, middle linebacker and defensive tackle. That's the key."

How good are they? If Pro Bowl appearances are any indication, they are among the best in the business. Singletary has played in the last six Pro Bowls. Hampton has been to the Pro Bowl four times, McMichael twice.

And though the youngest of the three is the 30-year-old Singletary, they just seem to get better with age. Singletary led the Bears with a career-high 170 tackles last season, while McMichael and Hampton tied for third with 88 tackles each—career bests for both players. McMichael had a career-high 11½ sacks, tops on the club; Hampton was third with 9½ sacks.

The three defenders share a number of similar traits that undoubtedly have been responsible for much of their success. One is their unusual willingness to sacrifice their bodies for the cause. To explain their dedication, Hampton once used an analogy of a chicken, a pig and a breakfast table. "The chicken donates," he said. "The pig is committed." Hampton, McMichael and Singletary are committed.

In the NFL playoffs last season, Hampton went full tilt for two games even though his knees were so battered he could barely walk up a flight of stairs. Another time he played 23 days after knee surgery.

"Commitment is when you don't have to do it and you still do it," said Hampton, who is entering his 11th NFL season, one more than McMichael and two more than Singletary. "It's a real simple deal. I don't have to lift weights today, but I'm going to. I don't have to lift weights this morning, but I'm going to."

Singletary once noticed during a game that the tip of one of his fingers was dangling by a thread of flesh. He had it taped up and ran back on the field. And McMichael hasn't missed a start since 1983 despite playing on two of the wobbliest knees in the league. He rarely misses a down, and playing in pain gives him satisfaction, he said, because of "the thought that you can do something most people can't even think about doing."

Hampton, who has had broken bones in his neck and hand, seven knee operations and back spasms that he dismissed as "just some vertebrae rolling out of alignment," calls pain his "companion" and "a friend rather than a foe."

In their grittiness and their tolerance of pain they are like their coach, Mike Ditka. McMichael, in fact, said he sees himself as Ditka reincarnated.

"Everything I stand for is his attitude," McMichael said. "I am the same kind of football player he was. I love the guy."

While Ditka believes Singletary has the makings of an ideal NFL coach, he seems to think more like McMichael and Hampton, who were called "dinosaurs" by Bears linebackers coach Dave McGinnis.

"They're throwbacks to the old days, like those guys you see on NFL films," McGinnis said. "They show those big old





# THE MIDST

guys on the bench, blowing smoke on a freezing day, blood and snot all over them. That's those two."

That's because they play the game for the love of it. Their primary motivation is not financial reward, as seems to be the case with most young players these days. Competition and winning are their bread and butter.

"We still romantically remember the way we were taught to play the game," Hampton said. "We try to instill that and keep that tradition alive. We haven't had a whole lot of people try to change our opinions."

To see them on a subzero Sunday afternoon, bare-armed with hands on hips, is to understand what Hampton and McMichael are all about. According to McMichael, they won't cover their arms in frigid weather because they don't want to be slowed by extra layers of clothing. A practical explanation, but not a complete one. They also want to toughen up their teammates. Be it a game or practice, they want everyone going all out all the time. And if any teammate is suspected of using a slight muscle pull or case of the sniffles as an excuse to avoid practice, he will have to deal with the wrath of Hampton and McMichael.

On more than one occasion, Hampton and Jim McMahon have exchanged venom over the quarterback's unavailability to

practice and play because of injuries. When a knee sprain kept McMahon out longer than expected last season, Hampton said publicly that the Bears were better off without him. After McMahon lashed back at Hampton on a radio show, Hampton said, "I've seen a lot of con artists come and go."

In 1986, when the Bears were frustrated with McMahon's persistent undiagnosed shoulder injury, Hampton and Singletary questioned the quarterback in a team meeting. McMahon was hurt, and some teammates were offended. But Hampton and Singletary became heroes to others. It's no coincidence that Hampton and Singletary were elected captains by those teammates.

Hampton once said being a captain meant leading calisthenics and calling heads or tails twice a year, but he takes the job more seriously than that. He is "a great leader by example," Singletary said.

Singletary felt uncomfortable with the amount of leading by talking he did during the players strike in 1987, so he resigned as the team's player representative after the strike and made a point last season of being a better leader by example. Whether it was accompanying rookies to the film room for extra work

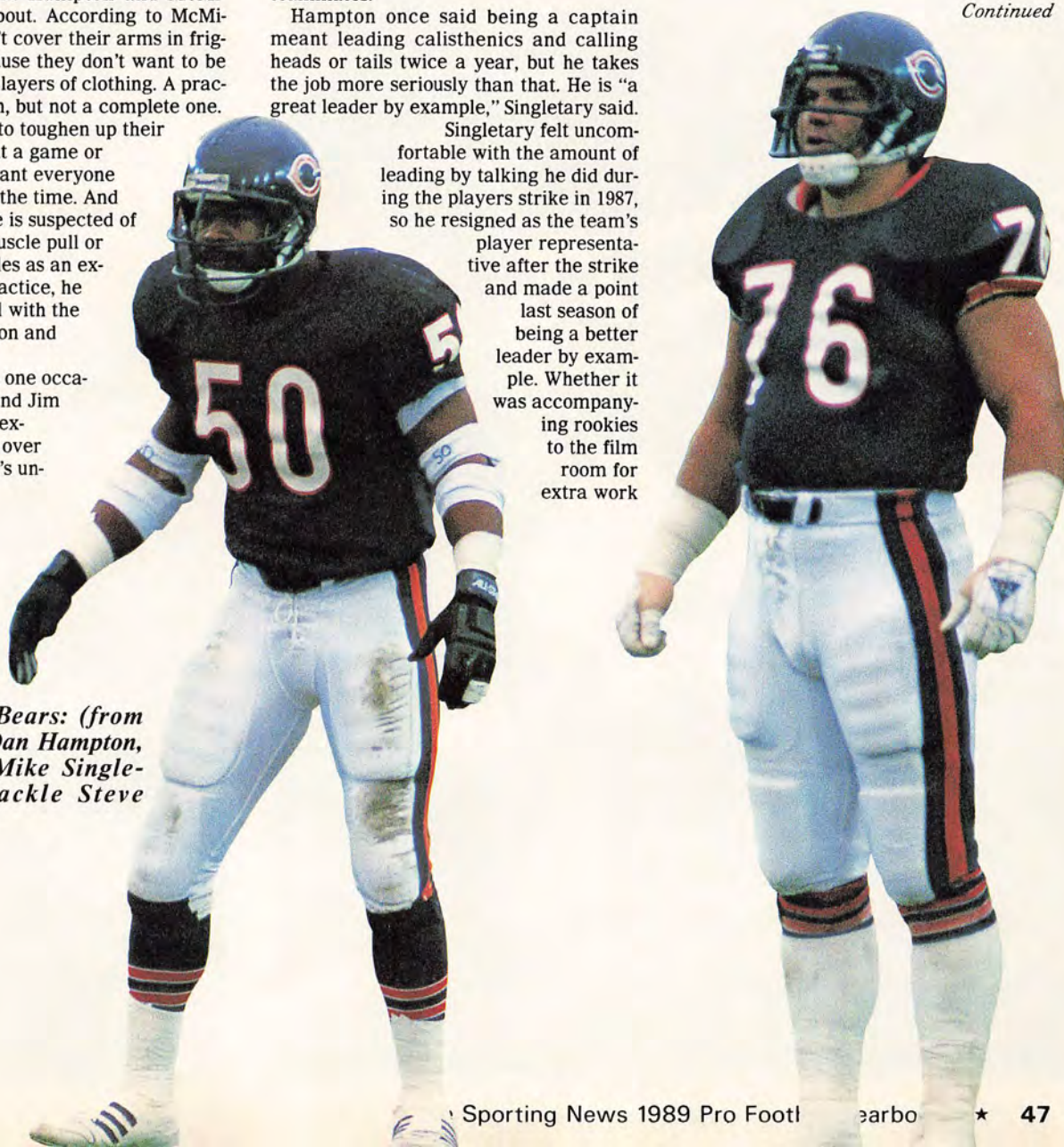
or getting every player who didn't have a hand or elbow injury to join him for 30 push-ups before practice each day, Singletary was constantly inspiring his teammates to work harder.

That goes for the off-season, too, when several players join him in sort of a daily boot camp he runs.

"Mike doesn't give an inch," said former Bears defensive end Al Harris, a regular in the boot camp. "I used to be a late-night person until I started working out with Mike. Now I never make it past 11."

Hampton and McMichael aren't the types to follow someone else's workout routine, but they do stay fit. McMichael,

*Continued*



*The Three Bears: (from left) tackle Dan Hampton, linebacker Mike Singletary and tackle Steve McMichael.*



## THE MIDST

one of the strongest Bears, works out almost every day at Halas Hall between seasons. Hampton spends much of his off-season working out and tending to the cattle on his farm in his hometown of Cabot, Ark.

Hampton and McMichael used to spend more of the off-season together a few years back. But their friendship soured three years ago when Hampton was replaced by McMichael in a TV commercial with teammate William Perry.

"It wasn't over a TV commercial so much as it was, say one thing, do another," Hampton said. "A trust was bro-

ken, and it really wasn't Steve or I that did it."

McMichael said he still is puzzled by what caused the rift, but he doesn't dwell on it. "There's going to be ebbs and tides in every relationship," he said. "Hell, I fight with my family worse than any friend I have."

Both say the bad feelings are gone—perhaps out of necessity. Hampton, who considers tackle his natural position but has played end to fill voids in the lineup, returned to tackle late in the '87 season, forcing him to work more closely with McMichael. Said Hampton: "When you work with someone as much as we do now, your friendship blossoms."

That friendship started blossoming sometime after the Bears signed McMi-

chael as a free agent in October 1981. He had been cut in training camp that year by the New England Patriots, who had selected him out of Texas in the third round of the 1980 draft. Upon arriving in Chicago, he already had one thing in common with Hampton and Singletary—a Southwest Conference alma mater. Hampton attended Arkansas, while Singletary is a graduate of Baylor.

"We're always at each other about who is better between Baylor, Texas and Arkansas," Singletary said.

By the time McMichael became a regular starter in 1983, Hampton and Singletary already had been starting together for two years. But it was the two tackles who became fast friends off the field. They shared not only the same job title,





but also a wild streak that accounted for many raucous adventures after practice. Singletary, on the other hand, is not the party type. The son of a former preacher, Singletary once said that if he were not a football player, he'd like to be "a worldwide evangelist." Naturally, they run in different social circles. But that has never affected their ability to mesh well on the field.

"We see eye to eye on an awful lot of things and we don't see eye to eye on a lot of things," Hampton said, "but there's a great deal of respect between Mike and myself."

"Those guys are hard to talk to," Singletary said. But, he added, "they're real people. If I had to pick people to play with, they'd be the guys."

When Singletary was voted NFL Defensive Player of the Year by the Associated Press last season, the first two people he thanked were Hampton and McMichael. He later sent Hampton "the godawfullest pair of red snakeskin boots I ever saw," Hampton said, and a matching belt. McMichael received the same gift in burnt orange.

"It was a very nice gesture," Hampton said. "I'll wear them on Halloween."

Singletary, easily the most widely acclaimed member of the trio, is the first to admit that he benefits greatly from having McMichael and Hampton playing in front of him. With Hampton consistently drawing two blockers and McMichael often doing the same, the blockers rarely get past the defensive linemen. That

leaves fewer people to impede Singletary, who then can make plays more easily. When Ron Rivera filled in for an injured Singletary in 1986, he led the Bears in tackles both games and told Hampton: "I never realized how great it is to play behind this defensive line. All you've got to do is run and tackle."

Although the 6-foot-5, 274-pound Hampton and 6-2, 268-pound McMichael have

*Continued*

***Singletary (left), McMichael (center) and Hampton share an unusual willingness to sacrifice their bodies for the cause.***





# THE MIDST

different physiques, they play a remarkably similar game. They rely on smarts and cunning as much as speed and power because, McMichael said, neither is big enough to go through an offensive lineman.

"I'm more likely to go under and he's more likely to go over," McMichael said of their pass-rushing techniques.

After practicing together, watching films together, having their lockers together and sometimes golfing together, Hampton and McMichael practically know each other like they know their wives. That works well for them on the field, where they can work in sync without actually having to see each other.

"If I've got outside contain and I make the running back cut back, I didn't make the play, but I know he's going to be there to make it," McMichael said.

Said Hampton: "I know Steve's game so well and he knows mine. We constantly communicate."

Jealousy is not a problem between the two tackles.

"You've got to give yourself up for the other guy sometimes and hope he'll give himself up for you," Ditka said. "I think they do that very well."

It's a reflection of their love for the game. For Hampton, football is enjoyable largely because of the constant one-on-one confrontations.

"In the course of a three-hour game, I'll know whether I'm better than this guy and we'll know if we're better than this team," he said. "I like the aspect of going out there and, hey, if I get my butt kicked, our team very well could get their butt kicked. One of us is going to be better. I love that challenge. I don't know if I can get that someplace else in life."

Hampton has been up to that challenge since his days at Arkansas, which preceded his selection by the Bears as the fourth pick overall in the 1979 draft. He explained his long trip from Arkansas by saying: "You don't buy tickets to fly out of there. You buy chances."

He has been laughing and livening up the Bears' locker room ever since. He's so gregarious and glib that he once tried his hand as a disc jockey for a country-music station in Chicago. His original inclination, in fact, was toward music; he marched in his high school band instead of playing football until his junior year. Still quite the musician, Hampton plays the guitar, drums, saxophone and several other instruments, and he sings and plays guitar with a group of athletes in a band called the Chicago Six. Once an entertainer, always an entertainer.

"I've laughed more in the last five years than I've laughed in my life," he said of times spent with teammates. "I get the fire in my eyes when it's time to play, but I really think a lot of people try to make football more serious than it really is. Hey, it's a game. We're really very lucky guys, getting paid to play a kids' game. When the fun goes out of this game, the

money's not enough to keep you in it."

While playing this kids' game, Hampton acts like a kid at times. He once injured himself in a locker room wrestling match with Perry. He explained a helmet-throwing incident in a 1987 game by saying, "Eighty-eight Olympics, helmet toss."

Hampton and McMichael were quite a pair in their early days with the Bears. A typical story is the one about the day they wandered into a notorious biker bar in Chicago's northwest suburbs after a few rounds of weights and beverages. They entered the darkened tavern in midafternoon wearing nothing but sweat across their mammoth chests.

"Any of you pluckers want to fight?" McMichael reportedly asked. Not a chain rustled. "Well, spit," Hampton said with disgust as the two stormed out.

"There are all kinds of stories lying around," McMichael said. "Some are half-baked, some aren't."

Some of the baking undoubtedly is done by McMichael, a gruff Texan who chooses his words carefully and calls reporters "vultures." He often has invited writers chronicling the Bears to join him in his favorite hobby—rattlesnake hunting.

"You throw a reporter out there and when the rattlesnake bites, you just grab it behind the neck," McMichael said.

Actually, McMichael uses a three-foot hollow pipe with a cord looped through it. The object is to put a noose around the snake's head and pull the cord on the other end of the pipe to grab the reptile by the neck. Once captured, the snake is dumped in a burlap sack. McMichael has

*Although Singletary (left), son of a former preacher, runs in different social circles than the gruff McMi-*

*chael (center) and gregarious Hampton, that has never affected their ability to mesh well on the field.*





been hunting rattlesnakes since his boyhood days in Freer, Tex., where rattlesnakes are as common as stray dogs. Why does he hunt them? "Self-preservation, brother," he said.

Viper hunting seems to be a suitable hobby for someone who used to be a bouncer in a strip joint. For kicks in those college days, McMichael once dangled someone by his ankles over a bridge, and another time he is said to have cleared out a bar by singing his own invective-littered version of a fight song.

If not for his wild side, which also included scuffles on the football field, McMichael might never have become a Bear. It was part of the reason why the Patriots cut him in 1981. He was out of football for the next seven weeks, during which time he took a job with a tax shelter company. Then the Bears called, and they didn't seem to mind his feistiness so much.

"You can get in some fights and they're not going to call the sheriff," he said.

The Bears and a bride helped settle him down, but McMichael still raises some hell in practice now and then. Whenever an offensive lineman gets too close to McMichael's knees during a scrimmage, he gets close to the lineman's face. When he beats a teammate's block, he laughs in his face.

"Then when you block him, you smile at him and he kicks you in the shin," Bears center Jay Hilgenberg said.

McMichael isn't particularly fond of offensive linemen, and he didn't appreciate it when the Bears once suggested that he consider playing on the other side of the ball.

"I think playing offensive line's a lot of crap," McMichael said. "You just fall down left and fall down right, don't you? I know they talk tough at times, but when a guy drops back to pass, the offensive linemen are just punching bags."

Singletary probably spent as many of his formative hours in libraries as McMichael spent in saloons. He met his wife at a crowded library at Baylor. She was looking for a vacant chair and Singletary had his papers spread across an area big enough for eight people. The future Kim Singletary figured anyone that studious might be able to help her understand calculus.

Singletary attacked running backs at Baylor like he attacked books. His head-first tackling style broke 16 helmets during his collegiate career and made pro scouts look past his somewhat undersized (6-foot, 230-pound) frame and less-than-ideal speed. "All I knew was I had a gift to hit," Singletary said.

Bears scout Jim Parmer said he saw something different about Singletary's attitude when he visited him at Baylor.

"He was dead serious, very business-like," Parmer said. "He looked right at me and said, 'Mr. Parmer, if you draft me, I'm going to be the best linebacker in the National Football League.'"

The Bears took him in the second round of the 1981 draft, and Singletary arguably has become the league's best linebacker. His goal now is to become the greatest



*Thanks in large part to the three men in the middle, the Bears' defense has ranked first or second in the NFL for each of the last five years.*

linebacker ever.

"We wouldn't trade him for anybody," Ditka said. "Anybody."

Singletary is coming off what many consider his greatest year. McGinnis said Singletary is covering backs better, coming free off blocks better and making smarter zone drops. The linebacker credits much of his improvement to a greater understanding of his job and a better approach to film study. He spends less time in the film room than in the past but accomplishes more. He also is handling the emotional side of the game better.

"I think I've finally learned how to channel my emotions and enthusiasms in a positive way and have it work for me rather than getting excited about something and forgetting what my focus is," Singletary said.

Said McMichael: "He can turn off the

aggression, but the intensity stays."

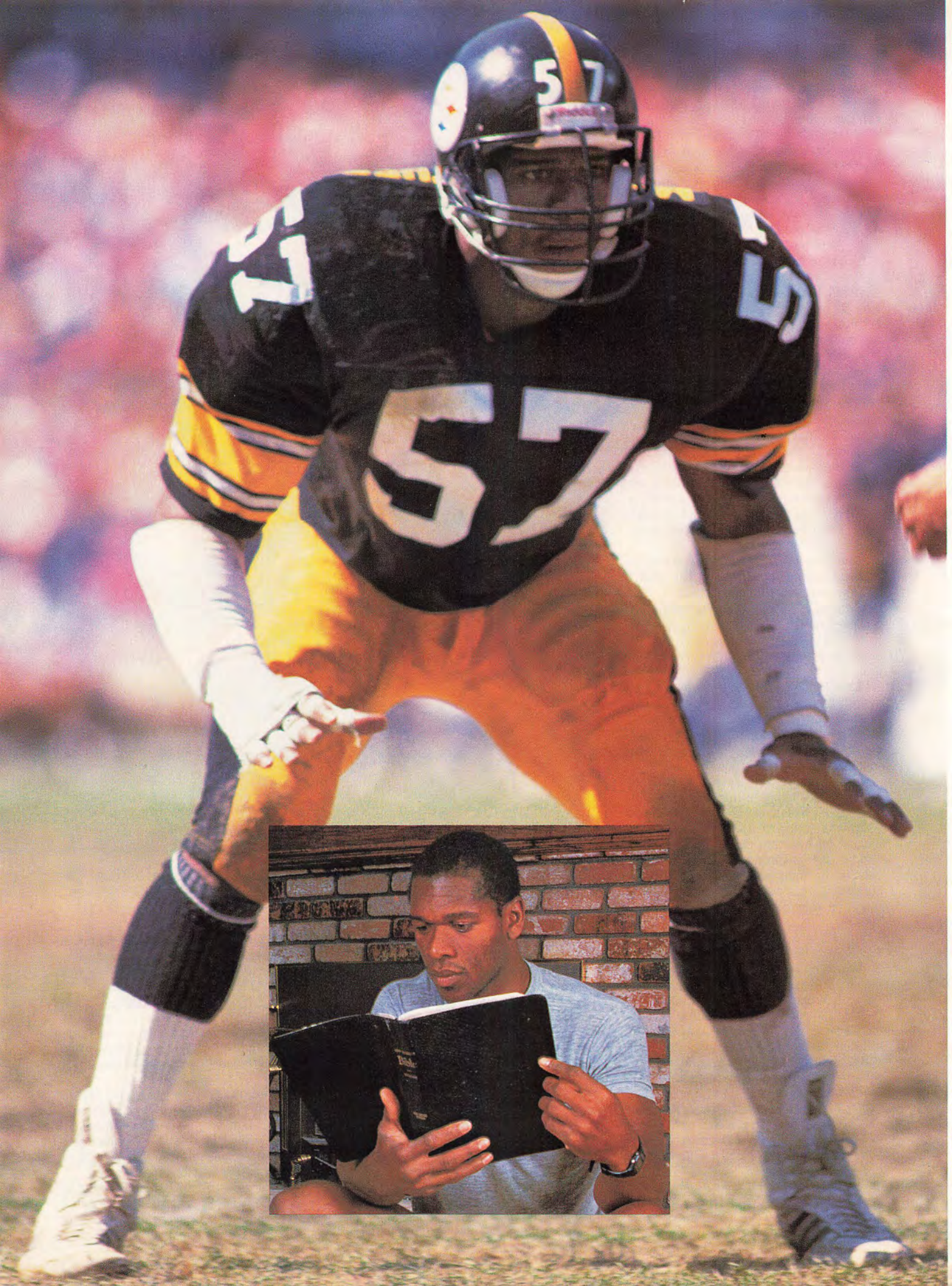
But it won't last forever—at least not in his present occupation. Singletary has said the 1990 season, which will be his 10th in the league, will be his last.

"That's it," he said. "The things I want to accomplish, after two years I should have them accomplished. After two years I think my level of play could start to go on the other side, and I'm not going to do that."

Hampton and McMichael have talked about retiring together, but it might not work out that way. Hampton, who is 32, said he would like to play two more seasons, but McMichael, who will turn 32 in October, is shooting for three more.

All this talk of retirement is of some concern to the Bears. After all, without this triangle, the Chicago defense could look pretty square. ■







# A Man of Principle

## *Having sacrificed the 1988 season, it's obvious Mike Merriweather practices what he preaches*

By JOHN CLAYTON  
Tacoma Morning News Tribune

**W**hen he first heard his divine calling, Mike Merriweather was excited. Almost too excited.

Though he loved athletics, especially football, Merriweather relished the thought of becoming a minister. His football career was about to be launched at Pacific, a private school in Stockton, Calif., but this calling put everything on hold. He didn't know what to do.

"Every day I used to wait for Jesus to come back," Merriweather said. "I started saying: 'No, I can't go to the movies. No, I can't have these records.' It was real pious. You sit around waiting and waiting. This happens when you first get saved."

Merriweather kept the records, went to the movies and continued to play football. But he knew that at some point, whenever his body grew tired of the sport, he would become a minister. Football was a noble enough athletic calling—after all, he had been blessed with a magnificent body, 219 pounds of tireless muscles that could run 40 yards in 4.5 seconds until the batteries in the stopwatch expired—but that was just his career. Religion was his life.

So how does Merriweather explain last season's strange holdout from the Pittsburgh Steelers? On the surface, the 28-year-old linebacker turned his back on a \$300,000 salary for 1988 that the Steelers were willing to increase substantially in the following years. Was it greed, a trait hardly befitting a man of God, or was it principle?

Merriweather calls it principle. He wanted to be paid like other Pro Bowl linebackers, who were making between

\$700,000 and \$1.2 million a year. "If everybody makes three bucks an hour, he wants three bucks an hour," said Frank Bauer, Merriweather's agent.

A month into the '88 season, the Steelers offered Merriweather, a three-time Pro Bowl linebacker, a four-year deal that would have brought him up to the low end of the scale for the other top players at his position. They refused, however, to renegotiate his '88 salary. Merriweather didn't budge. He kept waiting, through the end of the season and for the next four months, until Pittsburgh finally broke the stalemate just before the 1989 National Football League draft.

On April 21, the Steelers traded Merriweather's rights to Minnesota for a first-round choice in the draft, which would begin two days later. But the deal would go through only if the Vikings could sign Merriweather. Vikings General Manager Mike Lynn made him a take-it-or-leave-it offer of \$3.2 million over four years. That was about \$1 million less than what he had been seeking.

The following Sunday morning, Merriweather faced a decision. Scribbled on a yellow legal pad that rested on Bauer's kitchen table was a breakdown of the figures in Minnesota's offer. Seeking guidance, Merriweather asked Bauer for a Bible. From the 15th chapter of the book of Proverbs, Merriweather read:

"Better is little with the fear of the Lord than great treasure and trouble therewith. Better is a dinner of herbs where love is, than a stalled ox and hatred therewith. A wrathful man stirreth up strife; but he that is slow to anger appeaseth strife. The way of the slothful man is as an hedge of thorns; but the way of the righteous is made plain."

Merriweather looked at Bauer, touched the pad and said: "This is fair. This is right." A couple of hours later he signed with the Vikings.

"All I wanted was a contract that was fair," Merriweather said. "That's what I felt so strongly about. To me, it was principle. But I guess looking back, all I lost was a lot of time."

Better is Mike Merriweather now that his lost year is behind him.

★ ★ ★

The thought of sacrificing a season or a career never entered Merriweather's head when he walked into Steelers President Dan Rooney's office with four games remaining in the 1987 season. All seemed right with the world. Rooney is one of the fairest owners in sports. Merriweather was Pittsburgh's best player. He had gone to the previous three Pro Bowls and was about to be named the squad's most valuable player for '87.

It was the outside world that forced this meeting. Merriweather ranked among the league's best linebackers, but his peers were making two, three, even four times as much money as he was—and he was one of the few who played on special teams, too. His contract called for him to earn only \$300,000 in 1988 and \$330,000 the next year. After being a quiet bargain, Merriweather decided to speak up.

"Everybody was telling me to have them take me off of special teams," Merriweather said. "I never minded it. There were times I could barely catch my breath when I got back to the huddle after a kickoff. One time, I asked to take a break for a play, but I was told, 'We don't have anyone to back you up, son.'"

Which was fine. Merriweather loves special teams. He loves to run. He just wanted to make sure he was appreciated. Some of his desired incentive bonuses were going to charity anyway. Each year he maintained a 4.5-second time in the 40-yard dash in training camp, he wanted the Steelers to give his \$5,000 bonus to the

*Mike Merriweather turned to the Bible for guidance when his football career was put on hold.*

*Continued*



# A Man of Principle

Life Rescue Mission, and then he would match the money. Special-teams honors would go to the same charity, and again he would match those funds.

Before visiting Rooney, Merriweather recited a Bible passage: "If ye shall ask anything in my name, I will do it."

Merriweather asked. Steeler management wanted to help.

Merriweather said he remembers Rooney saying: "I entirely agree. I don't know what everybody makes on a contract, but I'm going to make sure it's taken care of."

That was enough for Merriweather, who walked out of Rooney's office smiling. So he waited until January to hear from the Steelers. He didn't like what he heard.

Because the Steelers did not want to destroy a payroll whose top annual salary was \$475,000, they offered to extend Merriweather's contract two years and give him a \$200,000 signing bonus. The entire package worked out to \$1.8 million over four years.

That wasn't good enough. Compared to the other top linebackers, Merriweather said, he wasn't being "taken care of."

Rooney couldn't understand that. "We did try to negotiate," he said. "We negotiated the year after his best year (1985). Mike is not a bad person. I don't agree with those who might have been advising him."

The Steelers wanted to keep their payroll under control. Merriweather wanted to be paid as much as his peers. And neither side wanted to give in. When the Steelers' training camp opened in July 1988, Merriweather was absent.

The holdout began.

★ ★ ★

What does a football player who devotes six to eight hours a day training for a season do when he doesn't have that season to play? For starters, Merriweather prayed.

"My favorite prayer throughout the year was Philippians 4:13: 'I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me,'" Merriweather said.

Financially, he didn't need

much strengthening during his holdout. Careful saving and wise investments in real estate developments in Stockton, where he still lives, made it possible for him to support his wife and infant daughter without his '88 income from the Steelers. He owns a house but has few other material goods. So, he put his free time to good use by studying and keeping fit.

Merriweather had enrolled at the Gold-

en State School of Theology in Oakland immediately after the '87 season. While his agents, Bauer and Mike Blatt, labored with unproductive contract negotiations, Merriweather studied theology. And after school, he devoted himself to his second religion—conditioning.

Training had been easy before NFL camps opened in the summer of '88. He and several football friends who lived in the Bay Area, including Cleveland Browns wide receiver Webster Slaughter, had met daily at a track and stretched, sprinted, run cone drills and guarded each other for hours. Then they played basketball, followed by some weight lifting.

But when training camps opened, Merriweather's buddies left. "It was a real lonely feeling," he said. "I would go out to the track alone to work out. After that, I was on a deserted island."

Even his education became unfulfilling. The theology school offered mostly study of the Baptist faith, and Merriweather is a member of the Pentecostal church. It also didn't emphasize what he found most important: Bible study.

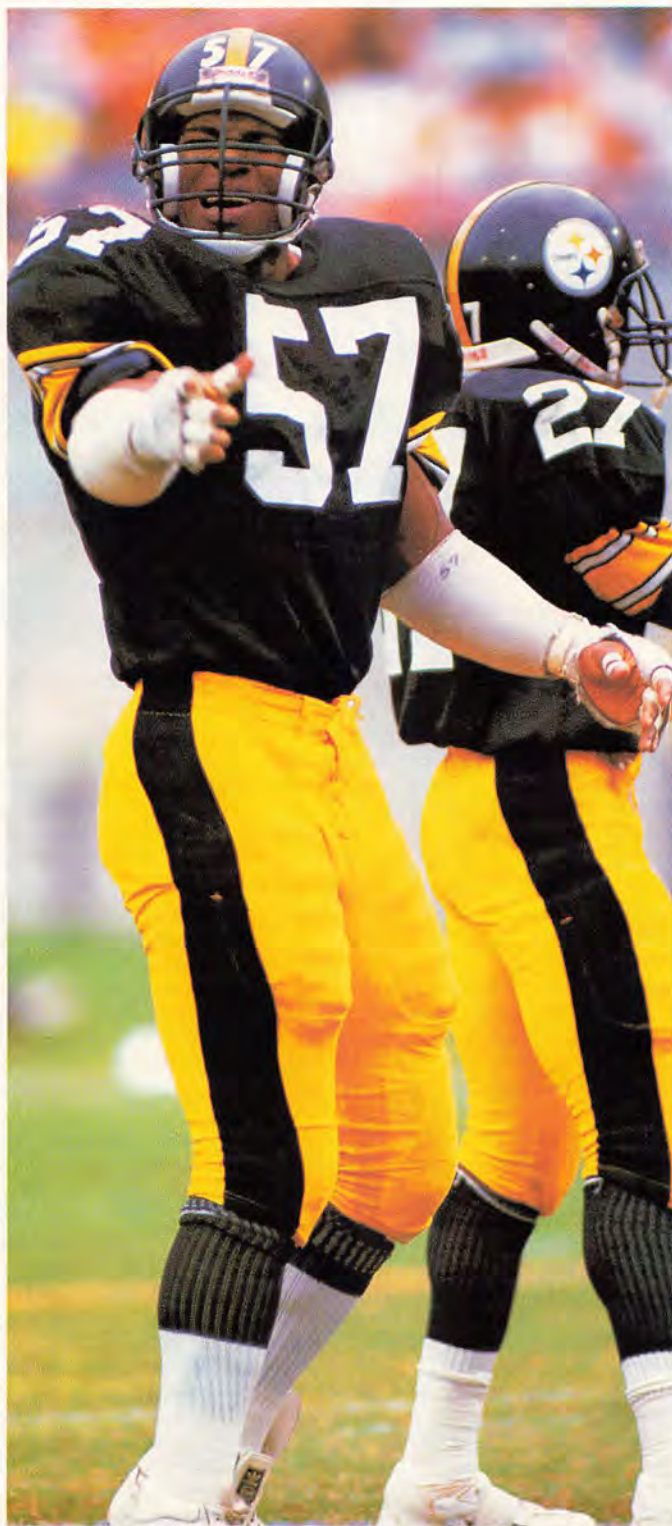
"What I really wanted to do is get into the Scriptures," he said. "I wanted more Bible memorization. When somebody has a problem, I can get ready and say what the Lord said."

To satisfy that desire, Merriweather drifted away from the Oakland school and took a correspondence course that stressed the Scriptures. "My main thing is to know what the Bible says," he said.

The Bible teaches not to be slothful, so he tried to keep busy during those times when he wasn't studying or training. When the football season began and the pain of not playing became even more acute, he ordered yards of soil for his lawn. "I made a big, giant flower bed," he said.

Shortly before the season started, Merriweather returned to Pittsburgh. It was there that he first became bitter about his contract dispute. He had gone east to attend the funeral of Art Rooney, the Steelers' beloved owner, and was taken aback when Joe Gordon, the team's business manager, took that opportunity to bring up his holdout.

"I was coming out of the sanctuary (after a visitation the day before the funeral) and I said, 'Hi, Joe,' and he just grabbed my arm and said, 'We



**Ranked among the league's best linebackers, Merriweather wanted to be paid as much as his peers. He couldn't accept the Steelers' refusal to renegotiate his 1988 salary.**



have to talk,'" Merriweather recalled. "He said: 'We have to get you into camp. I hope you're doing the right thing.' I was upset. It seemed a little awkward to me at that time and that place."

Merriweather returned to California, and a few weeks later the Steelers made him a new offer: \$2.8 million over four years. That averages out to \$700,000 a year, a figure Merriweather could live with, but he could not accept the club's refusal to renegotiate his 1988 salary. Again, neither side would budge.

"The problem is that you've got half the teams in this league losing money because they fall over to the demands of agents," Rooney said. "This puts great pressure on those who try to run their teams like a business."

Merriweather, meanwhile, felt justified in continuing his holdout. After all, the Mike Giddings scouting service had rated him as the league's fourth-best linebacker, and Rooney's latest offer didn't seem to reflect that. But Merriweather didn't really get upset with Rooney until Bauer told him that Rooney had said he had had only one good season in six years. The linebacker exploded, spewing out some of his resentment in the Pittsburgh newspapers.

"I'm not the kind of guy that gets mad," he said, "but I found myself thinking, 'I'm getting mad because I can't believe they are doing this to me.' I prayed about this the whole time. Things tugged me this way and kind of tugged me that way."

All that tugging must have made Merriweather hungry because he developed an addiction to pizza.

"There's a place called Peter Piper Pizza where you get two for the price of one," he said. "I got so big eating."

Big for Merriweather. He "ballooned" to 224 pounds—a full five pounds over his playing weight. A few extra basketball games and a lot less pizza took care of that unnoticable poundage in no time.

Close friends observed Merriweather taking out some of his frustrations on the basketball court. Everett Butler, a friend from college, talked him into playing in a Sacramento semipro league, where he came to be known as the Terminator and the Enforcer. Though the competition included players such as former Villanova star Ed Pinckney, Merriweather more than held his own.

Guards hated to defend the 6-foot-2 foot-ball player. He not only ran the court tirelessly, but also sank jump shots that would count for three points on anybody's floor. And he loved to tease guards until the final minutes.

"Mike would take the ball down the court on a break," Butler said. "He'd toss the ball under the defender's arm toward the basket. The guard would think that

the shot was past him, but Mike would run by him, grab the ball off the backboard and dunk it. It's nasty."

Merriweather's uncharacteristically nasty disposition dissipated when it became obvious that the Steelers wouldn't trade him last season. He rationalized the Steelers' position as a business decision. His was principle. He had but a few regrets.

"This thing was depriving my family," Merriweather said. "All that work I did keeping in shape for seven to eight months was useless. It was a growing process, but it's wasted time. All that anguish I went through every day."

"I couldn't believe it. I was the Steelers' obedient servant. Whatever they wanted me to do, I did. If they wanted me to run down on kickoffs, OK, fine. I was trying to set an example for everyone. The Steelers were going down, and I was saying, 'Hey, we can do it, we can do it.' Everyone was saying, 'Nah, I'm just going to get my paycheck.' I was trying to be everyone's leader by example."

★ ★ ★

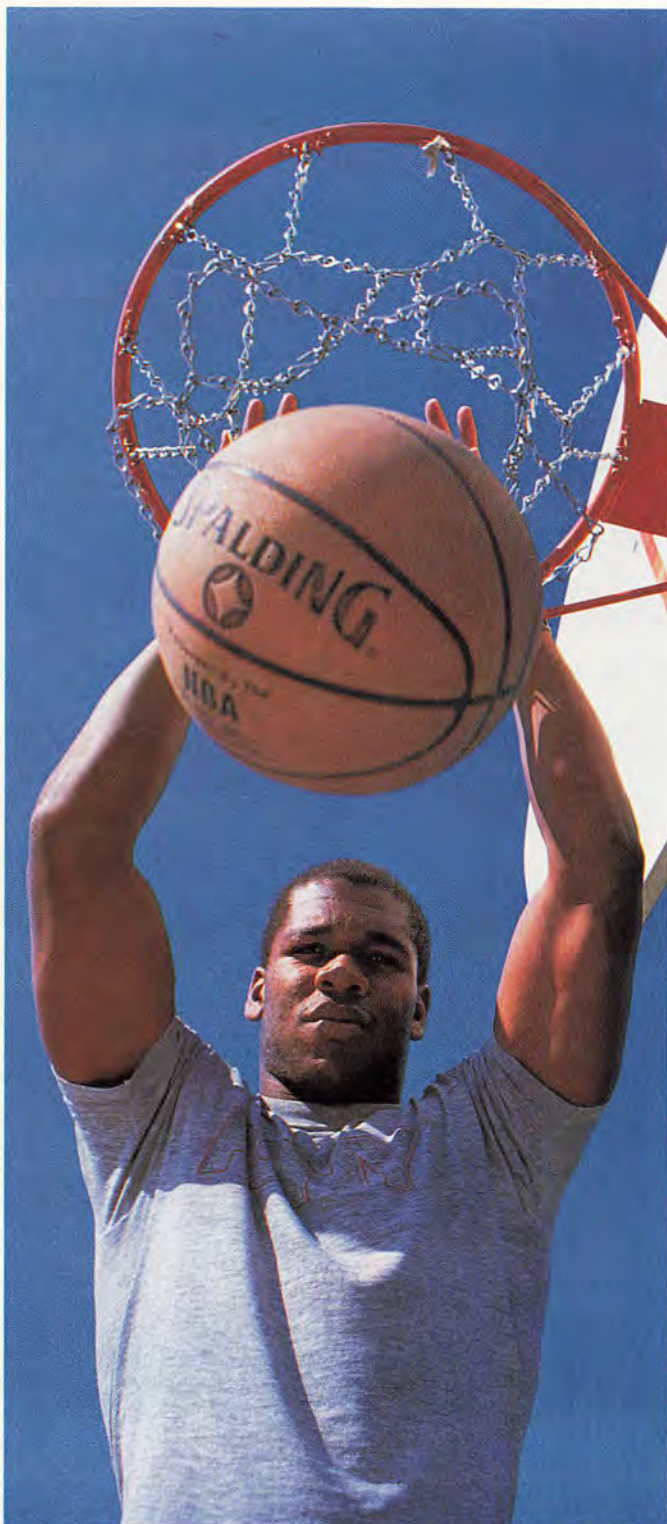
Merriweather has been trying to set a good example for others ever since a childhood run-in with the law changed his life.

Merriweather was an eighth-grader in Vallejo, Calif., when he fell in with the wrong crowd. Some of his friends broke into a school, and because of that association, Merriweather was found guilty of malicious mischief and given six months' probation. A condition of his sentence was that he check in regularly with a probation officer, a responsibility that caused him to miss the bus that took all the neighborhood kids to a swimming pool during the summer.

"I had to walk to the swimming pool," he recalled. "I would get there, and my friends would be going home. I decided never to get in trouble again."

He never did. By the time he got to college, his football coaches at Pacific thought he was too good to be true. He didn't drink, smoke or hang out with anyone but devout Christians. Merriweather was one player the coaches would not have to worry about.

Along with Butler, Merriweather joined a fraternity, Alpha Phi Alpha, whose members assembled in a quiet part of Stockton and spent a lot of



*When he wasn't studying theology or training, Merriweather was taking out some of his frustrations in a Sacramento semipro basketball league where he came to be known as the Terminator and the Enforcer.*

*Continued*



# A Man of Principle

time reading the Bible.

"Mike was unique and very different," said Gary Scott, Pacific's linebackers coach at the time. "He was not the clown in the clubhouse. He was more of a serious person. He was the model of an athlete, and that's not an easy thing to do. But it wasn't bad for him. People were in awe of his athletic ability, so he never had that kind of pressure."

Merriweather heard his call to serve as a minister early in his college career. But he had a problem: shyness. How could he inspire the masses with a soft voice that grows softer in front of groups?

"I want to sound like a full-fledged minister," he said. "My favorite is D.B. Hill in Los Angeles. But that takes years of practice. When I talk, I've got this real soft voice, especially when I'm not sure of everything."

In those situations, his speech moves as fast as his legs. Words slur, especially those with the letter "s." But he fully intends to master the language skills, and not just the English language. He wants to be able to deliver his sermons "in tongues," meaning in languages that he has never studied but is "inspired" to speak.

"I will be a very active preacher," Merriweather said. "Plus, I will be a real family man and have none of the vices."

But before devoting the remainder of his life to the church, he will be a minister of the Vikings' defense. One year away from football shouldn't set him back much, especially since he is a superb athlete and has kept himself in shape.

"Mike had his best year in 1987," said Jed Hughes, who coached Steeler linebackers before moving to the Cleveland Browns this year. "I think Mike is as good as any linebacker there is. He's very coachable. We turned him more into a pass rusher in 1984 and he had 15 sacks. But really he is more of a coverage linebacker."

Tony Dungy, his former defensive coordinator with the

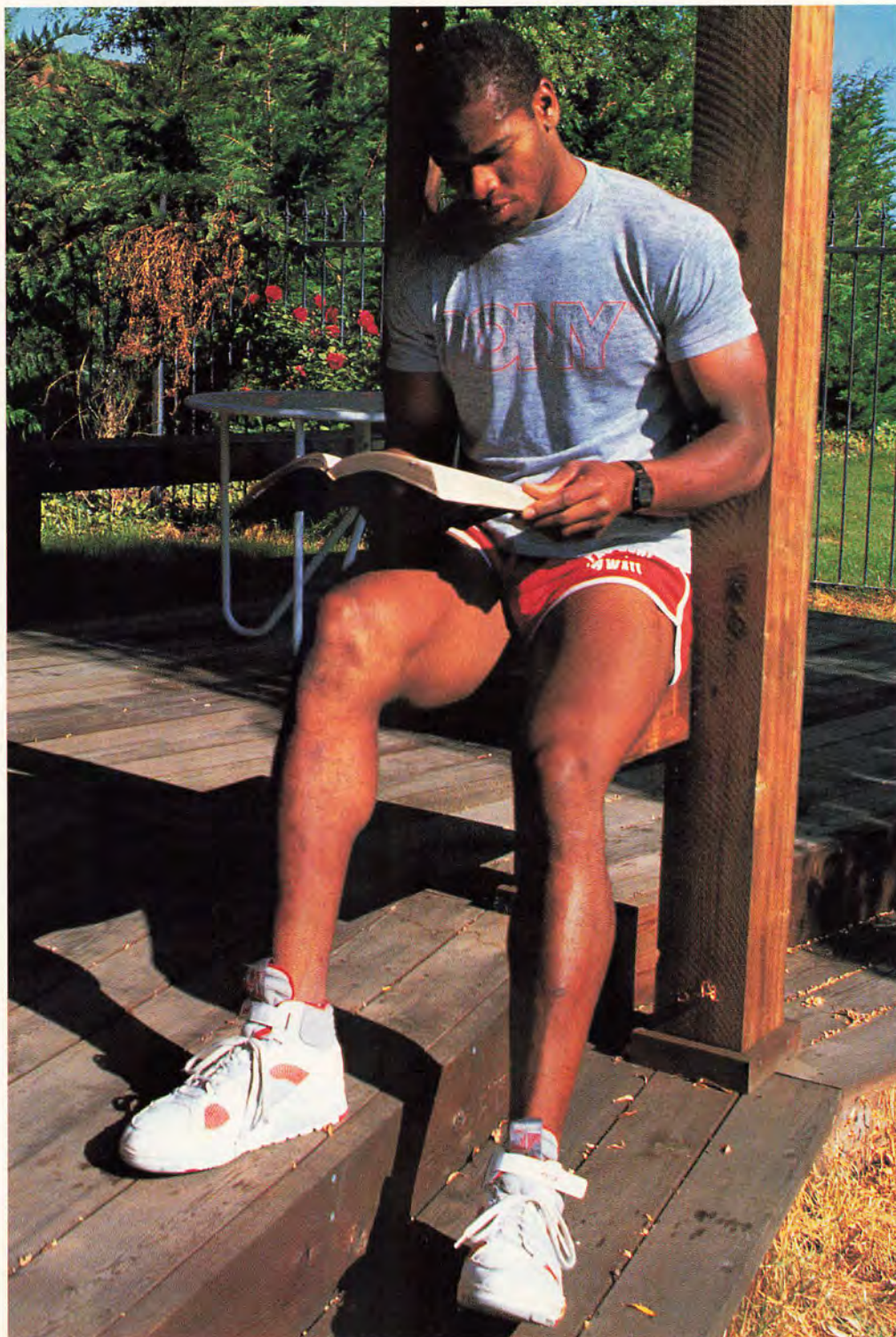
Steelers who now is with the Kansas City Chiefs, called him a finesse linebacker. Merriweather thrives on man-to-man coverages against running backs. Even receivers. He loves playing the game on the run, but if necessary, he'll charge the quarterback.

The Vikings plan to use him much the same way, although they might have him blitz more in order to produce more sacks and hurried passes. The Vikings already had the league's top-ranked defense in 1988, but they hope that the addition of

Merriweather will be the spark they need to make it to the Super Bowl.

"I'm totally thrilled to be with the Vikings," Merriweather said. "They're a young team and they're going places. This is a team that I'm going to be with for a long time."

"I'll miss Pittsburgh. I always envisioned myself being like a Jack Ham or a Jack Lambert and finishing my career there. In fact, I always wanted to play more years in Pittsburgh than Mel Blount. But this is right, and I'm happy." ■



*When his playing days are over, Merriweather plans on devoting the rest of his life to the church as a minister.*



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# WALKING THE COACHING TIGHTROPE

*Unpredictable and unstable, life as an NFL assistant is one never-ending balancing act*

By PETER KING  
Newsday

**F**or National Football League assistant coaches, it was a transient off-season.

It was an off-season so transient that a man trying for half of his professional life to be an NFL head coach, Bud Carson, finally got his chance, just when he had given up hope.

It was an off-season so transient that the beacon for black coaches, Tony Dungy, was demoted and then quit in Pittsburgh, interviewed for three different jobs and then was hired, unexpectedly, in Kansas City.

It was an off-season so transient that a couple of career assistants such as Len Fontes of the New York Giants looked at the unpredictability of their jobs and lives and decided to leave the business entirely.

In all, there will be 83 assistant coaching changes in the NFL this fall, not counting those who were added to fill newly created positions. Of the 294 assistant coaches on the 28 teams in 1988, a startling 28 percent of them won't be back or will be with different teams.

Coaching has always been a risky business, but it seemed chancier than ever since the end of last season. Here's how thin the coaching ice has been over the last few months:

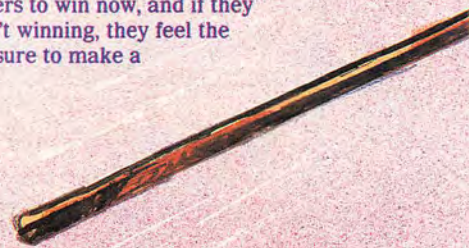
- Twelve of the 14 American Football Conference teams will have a new offensive or defensive coordinator, or both.

- Of the six division champions, five have had a significant coaching change or staff realignment. Cincinnati is the only exception.

- In Dallas, the revolving door spun wildly. George Hill, the Indianapolis Colts' defensive coordinator in 1988, was hired by Tom Landry as the Cowboys' defensive coordinator in February. Landry was fired two weeks later and replaced by Jimmy Johnson. Hill also was fired in that purge, but Miami Dolphins Coach Don Shula hired him as linebackers coach. Meanwhile, Johnson retained only four of Landry's assistants. But that was four more than Marty Schottenheimer kept in Kansas City, where he wiped the slate clean by bringing seven of his assistants

with him from Cleveland and hiring four outsiders.

"There's a lot of pressure in the game right now," said Dungy, who will coach the Chiefs' defensive backs this fall. "There's more money, more exposure for the game than ever. There's pressure for owners to win now, and if they aren't winning, they feel the pressure to make a



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change—in coaches, in the quarterback, in something.”

Fontes said the ax has been falling on assistant coaches more quickly over the last few years.

“It started about a decade ago in college ball,” he said. “When the defense didn’t have a good year, they’d fire that entire side of the ball. Or when the offense didn’t play well, they’d fire the offensive side of the ball. Before it used to be the head coach. Now it’s staffs. It’s one side of the ball or the other. So assistant coaches have so much pressure on them to produce right away and keep producing.”

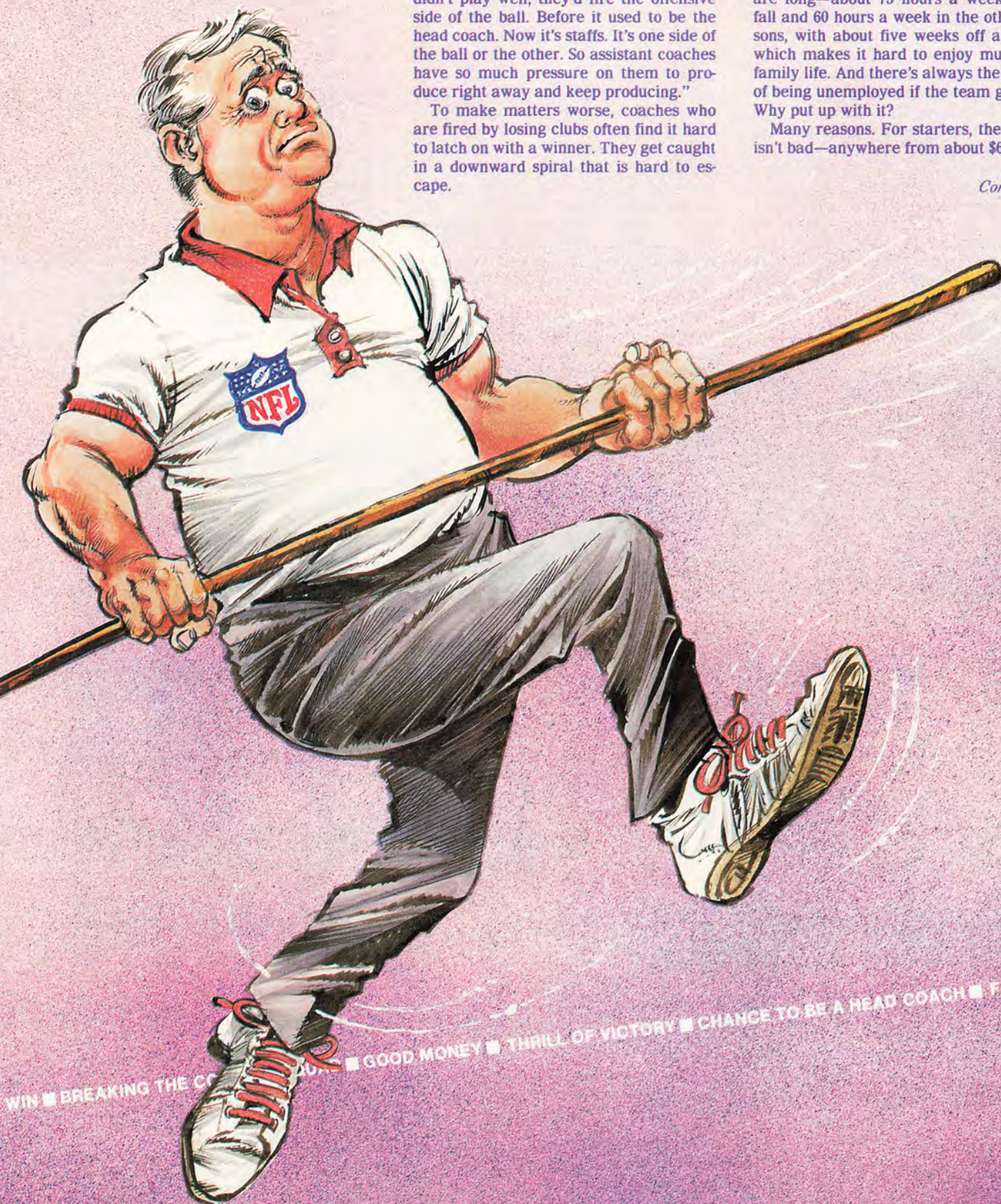
To make matters worse, coaches who are fired by losing clubs often find it hard to latch on with a winner. They get caught in a downward spiral that is hard to escape.

“The problem with coaching,” Cincinnati assistant Jim McNally said, “is if you’re with a team that’s a loser and you get fired, you’ll probably get a job with another team that’s just fired its coaches because that team was losing. Not much in our business is stable.”

So why would anyone want to be an assistant coach in the first place? The hours are long—about 75 hours a week in the fall and 60 hours a week in the other seasons, with about five weeks off a year—which makes it hard to enjoy much of a family life. And there’s always the danger of being unemployed if the team goes 7-9. Why put up with it?

Many reasons. For starters, the money isn’t bad—anywhere from about \$65,000 to

*Continued*





# WALKING THE COACHING TIGHTROPE

well over \$100,000 a year. More important, many assistants simply love the sport; they thrive on the competition, the camaraderie, the thrill of victory, the opportunity to teach. To them it's a game, not a job, and it beats the heck out of punching a clock for a living. And there are some who seek more—namely, the chance to be a head coach.

Few make it that far, but most keep plugging. The reasons why are as numerous as the assistant coaches themselves. But four 1988 assistants who discussed their careers last spring are representative of the majority of their peers. One man (Carson) has become a head coach since the end of last season. Another (Fontes) has quit coaching. A third (Dungy) has remained an assistant but

switched teams. And the other (McNally) has stayed put, content with his job and his life.

Their individual stories follow:

## THE CAREER ASSISTANT

**Jim McNally**  
**Offensive Line Coach**  
**Cincinnati Bengals**

Two Sundays before the NFL draft last April, Jim McNally was checking into a hotel for about the 20th time since the Bengals lost to San Francisco in Super Bowl XXIII. And he was having a blast.

Some might wonder what could be fun about moving from town to town—in this case, Tulsa—during the off-season. That was supposed to be a time to catch your breath, to reacquire yourself with your family, to start working up plans for next season. But McNally was genuinely excited about his task for the next morning—watching a University of Tulsa tackle display his talents.

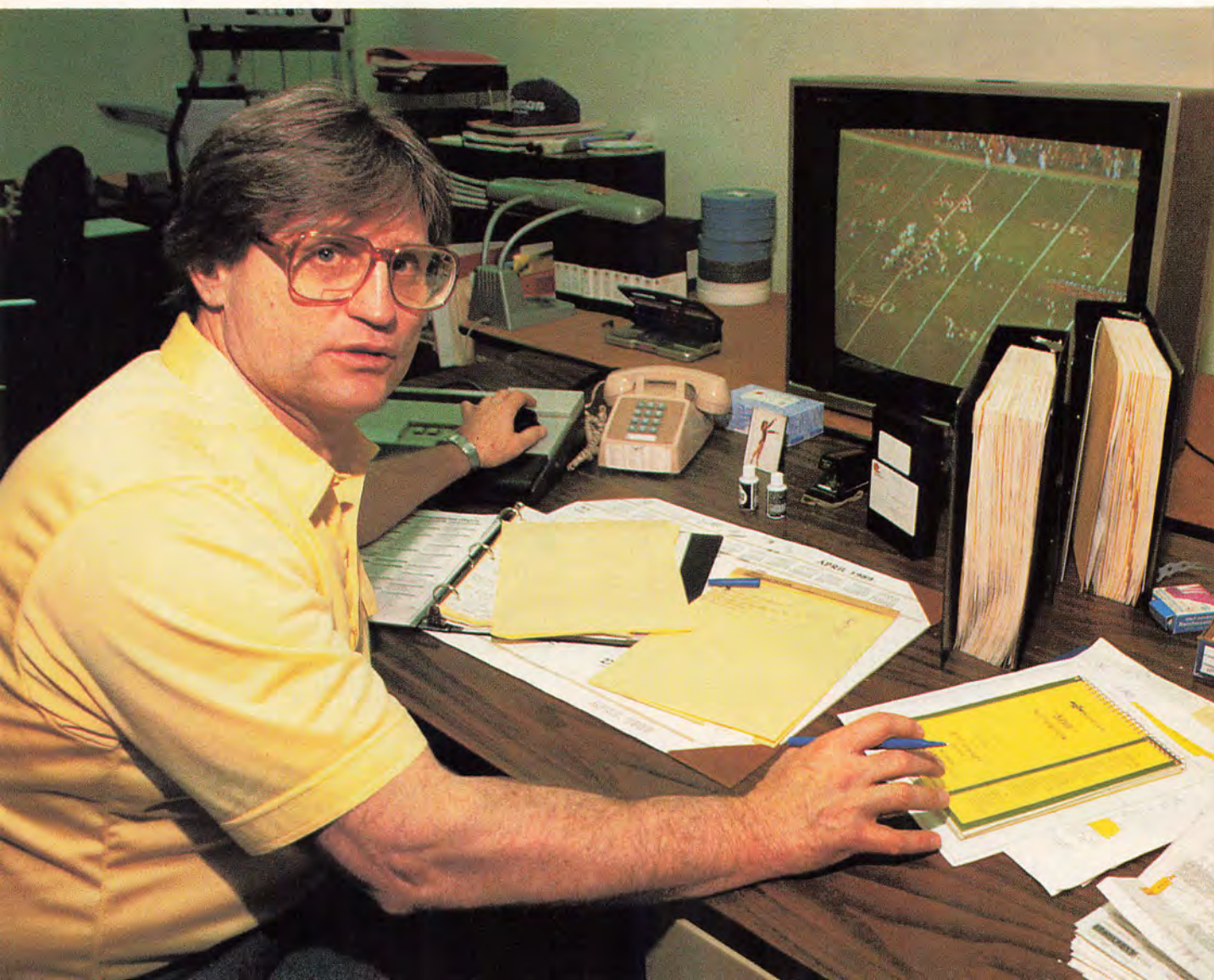
The guy might be a stiff. He might be a free-agent prospect. He might be a fifth-

round draft choice. McNally wouldn't really know until he saw the guy because he didn't necessarily believe what the combines and the scouts had reported. He wanted to see for himself, and the Bengals let him.

Cincinnati is one of the few NFL teams that let their coaches scout all the players they're interested in drafting. Some organizations call that a waste of time. Better that the coaches spend those two months getting some much-needed R&R and working on X's and O's, they say, than running around looking at a bunch of college kids.

McNally calls it smart. Since 1984, he has found three middle-round guys and turned them into above-average NFL starters: guard Bruce Reimers, tackle Joe Walter and center Bruce Kozerski. Any offensive lineman the Bengals drafted was McNally's responsibility. Entirely.

"I check 'em out from top to bottom," said the 45-year-old McNally, who is entering his 10th season with the Bengals. "In my first year, Pete Brown (Cincinnati's personnel director) told me exactly where to go. Now, 10 years later, I've



*Cincinnati's Jim McNally, who gets his kicks from "teaching kids how to block," wants to be a line coach forever.*



learned the ropes, and I know coaches and people in all these college towns. They help me.

"I think the Bengals are one of the best, if not the best place, organization to coach for. I didn't think it the first couple of years, but I do now. I think I might have the best job in football. I'm not kidding. They let the coaches here be very involved in the draft. We don't have to argue about plays or strategies all off-season. It doesn't take you six months in the off-season to decide your scheme. Getting the players is so much more important."

McNally also considers job security important. He had a chance two years ago to move to Dallas for more money, but he passed because he didn't know how long he'd have a job. The Bengals' management, on the other hand, knows there will be up years and down years, he said, and two down years in a row won't automatically cost the coaches their jobs.

Stability means a lot to McNally, who has a wife and three children. He is a rarity in the business, a coach who has been able to raise a family without moving every couple of years. His oldest daughter, a high school senior, has been in the same school system since the second grade.

McNally said this security makes it easier for him to do his job properly. And just what is his job? To illustrate, here is a typical Wednesday during the season for Jim McNally:

5 a.m.—McNally wakes up.

5:20 a.m.—McNally leaves the house, stopping for coffee and a bologna sandwich (his lunch) at a convenience store on the way to the Bengals' practice facility.

5:50 a.m.—McNally arrives at the Bengals' practice site and begins a three-hour process of breaking down film and getting plastic sheets ready for the overhead projector at the morning team meeting.

9:30 a.m.—Team meeting. McNally details the plans for that week's running game and explains the blocking schemes, formations and audibles the Bengals will use.

11:15 a.m.—The offensive linemen go to McNally's office, where they sit in school-desk chairs and watch film.

11:45 a.m.—The players adjourn to eat lunch while McNally finalizes the practice schedule and eats his bologna sandwich.

12:45 p.m.—The players walk through some plays on the practice field, then go in for a team meeting at 1:30. Practice begins 15 minutes later. During practice, McNally is the guy holding up cards at the line of scrimmage telling players on each side of the ball what to do.

4 p.m.—Practice is over, and McNally returns to his office to prepare 30 minutes of post-practice film viewing. After the linemen shower, they gather in McNally's office to watch.

5 p.m.—The players leave, but the coaches stay. The offensive staff meets to finalize plans for all first- and second-down plays to be used that week.

7:45 p.m.—McNally leaves for the 21-mile drive home. "If things aren't going good," he said, "I won't listen to the talk



**Bud Carson, Cleveland's 58-year-old rookie head coach, waited 34 years for the chance to prove he can run a football team.**

shows on the way home. I don't read the paper or listen to the radio when things are bad because I don't want to be reminded of it. I'm not a negative person. Sometimes the talk-show questions are so goofy. It's like a fantasy world."

10 p.m.—Bedtime. Seven hours later it's time to start all over again.

It's a routine McNally enjoys.

"If you're in this business and all you're looking for is the game on Sunday, you're in the wrong business," he said. "That's not what turns me on. I get my kicks from getting down and teaching kids how to block, you know what I'm saying to you? Techniques and footwork, I get turned on by that."

He has no higher aspirations. "I don't want to be a coordinator, I don't want to be a head coach, I don't want to have my own team," he said. "I just don't want people to mess with me. I'm not always right. I know that. But I put enough time into it that it's hard for me to accept if somebody changes what I do. That's the good thing about working for this team, and that's why I think I have the best job in football. I'm excited about being the line coach. I only want to be the line coach forever."

His only regret is that he hasn't been home more to watch his kids grow up. "The only problem they have is their

daddy not being around most of the time," he said. "But they're not the kind of kids who sob that their daddy's never home."

## THE ROOKIE BOSS

**Bud Carson  
Head Coach  
Cleveland Browns**

By the time the Browns hired Bud Carson last January, he already had decided it was a lost cause. After 34 years in the business, he had given up any realistic hope of ever becoming a pro football head coach.

"I used to (think this day would come)," said Carson, who had been a pro defensive coordinator for 15 years, including the last four with the New York Jets. "But lately, no. When you've been in it as long as I have and don't get the chance, you think there's no way anybody's going to give you the chance."

There are Bud Carsons on every staff—guys who know they could run a football team but figure they'll never get the chance. The Washington Redskins have Joe Bugel, their dogged assistant head coach/offense. The Los Angeles Rams

*Continued*



# WALKING THE COACHING TIGHTROPE

have defensive coordinator Fritz Shurmur, the Minnesota Vikings defensive coordinator Floyd Peters. They're everywhere. They coach 20 or 30 years, learn everything there is to know and then hope for a chance to prove they can do it. Philadelphia's Buddy Ryan was one. The Giants' Bill Parcells was one.

Now, Bud Carson is one.

"I was convinced I'd never get the chance," Carson said, "so the first surprise I got is when they were interested."

The Browns were interested in Carson for a couple of reasons. Browns Vice President Ernie Accorsi, who had worked with Carson in Baltimore in 1982, liked his coaching intensity and intelligence. Browns Owner Art Modell liked his wealth of experience—10 coaching stops in 34 years. Modell also wanted someone who wouldn't insist on being offensive coordinator. An old defensive hand like Carson fit the bill perfectly.

Yes, old. Carson, the rookie head coach, is 58. That makes him just a year younger than Shula, who is entering his 27th season as a pro head coach, and a year older than Pittsburgh's Chuck Noll, who is in his 21st. Among the 27 other NFL head coaches, only Shula, Minnesota's Jerry Burns (62), Buffalo's Marv Levy (61) and Atlanta's Marion Campbell (60) are older than Carson.

Carson believes he should have been hired by somebody long ago. As architect of Pittsburgh's Steel Curtain defense, he was bitter when he didn't get an offer after the Steelers won Super Bowls IX and X. The next year the Steelers shut out five of their final eight opponents and made the playoffs again. Carson's phone still didn't ring.

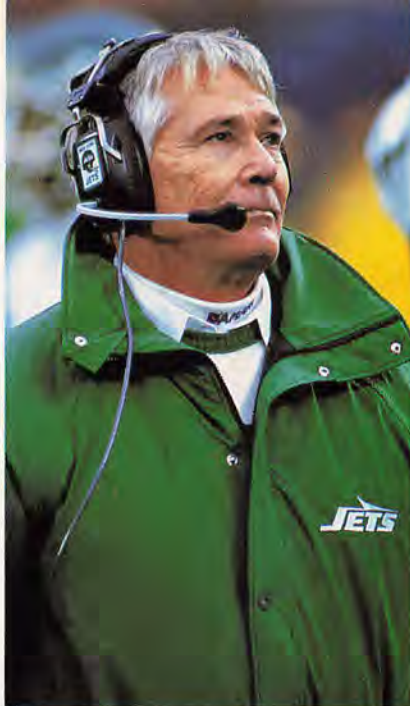
"You get used to it after a while," said Carson, who still wears a Pittsburgh Super Bowl ring.

Carson can't help but look back on his career with ambivalence. He went from a high school job (Scottsdale, Pa.) to college jobs (North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia Tech) to pro jobs (Steelers, Rams, Colts, Chiefs, Jets). He even spent a year at Kansas as a volunteer coach between pro jobs. But he never got the post he really wanted—until last winter.

That was about a dozen years later than he would have liked, but he said he figures he'll still be a great head coach because he has had so much time to prepare.

"I really feel that when you get older, you lose some things but you gain more," he said. "You learn things. You're smarter. You can deal with situations better. I also think that because I've kept in pretty good shape that I've kept fit mentally, too. I think I'll do a better job because of that."

"It's also true that the defensive side of



*Carson, who had been a defensive coordinator for 15 years, including the last four with the Jets, believes he should have been hired by somebody long ago.*

the ball has made a comeback. Whether it be the success of Buddy Ryan, Jim Mora (former defensive coordinators who now are head coaches) or looking at the jobs I've done, it's an opportunity I've waited for and I'm grateful for.

"Timing is everything. I would never have gotten this chance if they hadn't wanted the kind of coach I am. And then I probably never would have gotten the chance. Anywhere."

## THE GREAT BLACK HOPE Tony Dungy Defensive Backs Coach Kansas City Chiefs

Tony Dungy's goals are simple: He wants to be the best assistant coach he can be, and he wants to have a great family life with his wife and two young children. If it works out, he'd love to be an NFL head coach. But climbing the ladder of success has included an extra burden for Dungy.

He was asked: "Has it been difficult for you to be the point man for the whole...?"

"Yes," he blurted out before the question was finished. "I know what you're going to say. And it's been tough. Very tough."

Dungy is not opposed to being the Jackie Robinson of his profession. And there are many who believe the 33-year-old native of Jackson, Mich., has the best shot of becoming the league's first black head coach since Fritz Pollard was a player/coach in the 1920s. But he wants it to happen naturally—because he is ready and willing to take control of a club, not just because he is black and available. When his name first started surfacing as a head

coach candidate a few years ago, Dungy wasn't sure he was ready yet.

"It's tough," he said, "because you're in a no-win situation. If you say one thing, you're militant. If you say something else, you don't want the job. Finally, I just wanted to stop talking about it."

"All that talk started when I was 29, 30 years old, when I wasn't ready to be a head coach in the NFL. I wanted to say it'd be 10, 15 years before I'd be ready, but I couldn't win. Look at the youngest head coaches in the league. They're 36, 37, 38."

Dungy said his most important job is being a husband and father. Then comes his coaching. Then comes the unwanted job—being the standard-bearer for black coaches.

"That's something that I never asked for and something that I don't enjoy," he said. "People bring up my name and I really have no control over it."

Dungy was even more distressed when Noll told him after last season that he would be demoted from defensive coordinator to secondary coach. The Steelers had finished last in the league in total defense, and Noll was forced to shake up his coaching staff. But Dungy balked. He decided to resign and started looking into openings around the league.

He went with Marty Schottenheimer, who had just been named Kansas City's new head coach and had long been an admirer of Dungy's work. He will coach the Chiefs' secondary, which is considered one of the league's best. So Dungy, one of the coaching casualties of '88, landed on his feet in '89.

"If you're in the game strictly for security, this is a bad job," he said. "But when I went looking this off-season, it was important for me to have some semblance of security. It's very important for me to know my family is in a good place and in a place where we'll be for a while."

"I want to be a head coach someday, no doubt about that. There comes a point in your career in this business where you say to yourself either 'I want to get out' or 'I'd like to go on and be a head coach.' I've decided I'd like to be a head coach someday. But if somebody told me right now I'd have to move four or five times before I got the chance to be a head coach, I'd say, 'Forget it.' It's not worth it to me."

Dungy is unlike some of his peers in that he never aspired to be a football coach.

"My first dream was to be a high school basketball coach," he said. "That was going to be my plan while I played—play 10 years in the NFL, then go back home to Jackson, Michigan, and live happily ever after there. But I was cut after my third NFL season, and I was hanging around the University of Minnesota (where he had been a quarterback), and I just started helping out with the DBs. Then all of a sudden I was with the Steelers."

Dungy has been pleased with his choice of professions, even though his workdays are long. "It's probably the same thing with anyone else who's successful," he said. "I enjoy the job. With any successful people, their jobs are not 9-to-5 jobs. You





*Kansas City's Tony Dungy wants to be a head coach someday, but he wants it to happen naturally — be-*

*cause he is ready and willing to take control of a club, not just because he is black and available.*

know during the season you're going to spend a lot of hours at work. During the season, you just know you have things to do and you have to do them.

"To me, the preparation is the important thing and the fun thing. You're looking at other teams and trying to put your program together, and that's the exciting thing, putting the game plan together. If you live only for the games, the time is so short out there. . . . Boom, then it becomes, well, depressing."

It became depressing for Dungy last year in Pittsburgh, watching the Steelers fall decisively to the bottom of the AFC Central and listening to calls for the heads of Noll and several assistants.

"But you've got to divorce yourself from the criticism," he said. "It's hard, but you've got to do it."

"It's tough. In Pittsburgh, when you win, everything's great and people say you're a genius. Fans are behind you. The players, for the most part, are happy. It's a euphoric situation. But losing, you usually work harder, longer. People say you didn't work hard enough. The fans have suggestions, the writers have suggestions. But you just have to say, 'I'm going to coach the way I always have.'"

In moving from the Steelers to the Chiefs, Dungy has gone from a city that expected a winner to one that has grown accustomed to losing. But he believes that can change under Schottenheimer, whose coaching talent he admires.

"Noll and Schottenheimer have things in common," Dungy said. "That's important for a coach who moves. They're both detail guys. They want you to get a plan and follow it. Then they let you coach your own style. And they both want fundamentals taught."

Dungy said he chose Kansas City also because it offers a good environment in which to raise his kids and, he believes, some job security. That hasn't been the case with the Chiefs lately, but Schottenheimer and new General Manager Carl Peterson have a three- or four-year honeymoon period, courtesy of Chiefs Owner Lamar Hunt.

"I realize there's no such thing as absolute security, especially after seeing people calling for Shula, Noll and Landry to be fired last year," he said. "But it was important to have some semblance of security because of my family. You have to make judgments, and I judged that this situation had some security and was a good place to live."

## THE NEW BUSINESSMAN

### Len Fontes

**Former Defensive Backs Coach  
New York Giants**

The doubting began during the strike season of 1987. Len Fontes would coach the Giants' replacement players all day,

drive 55 minutes to his home in Rockaway, N.J., sleep for five hours, get up and do the same thing the next day. When the strike was over, the Giants were 0-5 and out of contention to repeat as Super Bowl champions.

"It left a bitter taste in my mouth," Fontes said.

The following March, Fontes turned 50. Superman also turned 50 that year. Fontes sent out birthday announcements that had a photo of Superman, with his own face taped atop the Man of Steel's shoulders. Then he started thinking to himself: "I'm not Superman anymore. And I don't like this, either. Do I really have to do this anymore?"

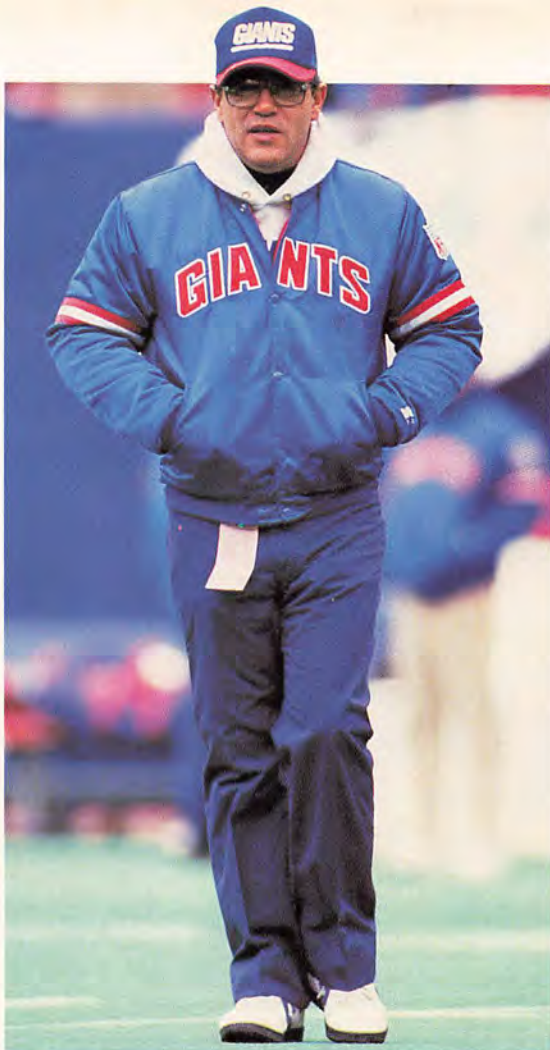
Also that winter, Fontes was told to stay home from work for a couple of days while the Giants interviewed someone else for his job. That person didn't take the job, so Fontes came back. But the New York secondary performed poorly last fall, and as the season wound down, the Giants seemed likely not to renew his contract.

Fontes beat the firing squad to the punch. Telling Parcells he was tired of football, he resigned.

"I decided probably after the Phoenix game last year that I'd had enough and I had to do something else," said Fontes, whose brother Wayne took over as coach of the Detroit Lions late last season. "I

*Continued*





*Len Fontes resigned when he realized he didn't want "to be someone's assistant coach for the next zillion years." Now, as marketing director for a construction*

*company, his boss tells him he's not doing his job if he's not playing at least two rounds of golf a week with high-rolling potential clients.*

## WALKING THE COACHING TIGHTROPE

thought after that game: 'I'm getting to the point where I don't like the game anymore.' There were a lot of things that went into it. I got to be 50 years old and I said to myself: 'What the hell are you doing? Are you going to be someone's assistant coach for the next zillion years?'

After hearing that Fontes wanted to quit, Parcels still let him attend the Senior Bowl/coaching convention in January. But after spending three days there, Fontes left the Tuesday before the game. He had had enough.

"I had to leave early," he said. "I saw all the guys standing in lobbies, trying to get jobs, and I decided I was never going to go through this. I looked at 50-year-old guys without jobs and wondered what they were going to do now, and I just knew I had to do something else."

Fontes is a garrulous sort, and he had made some highbrow friends while coaching for the Giants. So after the season, he interviewed with Richard A. Ste-

vens Inc., a Whippany, N.J., construction company that builds office buildings, car dealerships and shopping malls.

"I had gotten some tickets for these people at Richard Stevens in the past," he explained, "and so I went to them to see if they might have a job for me. They wondered, 'How much is the (Super Bowl) ring worth to us?' and when they found out it was worth some business to them, they hired me."

Fontes interviewed for the marketing director's job, and the big part of his interview called for Fontes to walk into a business executive's office unannounced, show the secretary his Super Bowl ring and ask her if he could see the boss.

It worked. Now he eats lots of lunches and dinners on the company tab, and his boss tells him he's not doing his job well enough if he's not playing at least two rounds of golf a week with high-rolling potential clients.

"Right now," he said last spring, "it looks like my job is lunch and dinner. And golf. I can't believe how wonderful this is."

Wonderful? To be out of football? That's right. Fontes loves the sport, which he played at Ohio State and coached at the prep, collegiate and pro levels. But he is living proof that you can love something and be sick of it.

"There are things you think about when you get out of football that you just take for granted when you're in football," he said. "For instance, my anniversary is July 26th. You know how my wife and I spend our anniversary? She's in training camp, in the stands. I'm out on the field, coaching. Anniversaries meant nothing. Thanksgiving meant nothing. Christmas Eve and Christmas, if you're successful in football, you spend working. Players have Tuesdays off. We work every day. The only time a coach has some relaxing time, maybe, is when we have a West Coast trip. Then we can sleep on the plane."

"People say to me, 'You'll get back into it,' but I don't think so. There were seven (secondary) jobs open this year, and I didn't go after any of them. What happens when they kick it off? I don't know. I think I'll be the biggest fan there is, tailgating and loving the game. But I don't think I'll want to get back in."

In fact, he is afraid that he didn't leave the game soon enough. "Looking back, I have to wonder if it was worth it," he said. "The sad thing is the kids. My baby daughter just had a baby. My other daughter, I turn around and she's a stewardess. I've got to say, as much as I loved it, it wasn't worth it. The times I was gone, it just doesn't seem worth it. I have to say, right now, that I don't miss it one bit." ■



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# BESTS *and* WORSTS

By FRANK COONEY  
San Francisco Examiner

**I**n 1989, the National Football League will have a new commissioner. Dallas will have a new coach. Many teams will have new players, courtesy of Plan B—a form of so-called free agency that saw more than 200 players change uniforms. And before long, other countries will have teams in a new minor football league.

Indeed, the times they are a-changin'. What with all this movement and upheaval, it is becoming increasingly difficult to keep track of everybody and everything in pro football. Doesn't anything ever stay the same?

Well, there are a few things you probably can count on in the NFL's 70th season. Mike Ditka will still lose his temper ... Jerry Rice will still humble proud defensive backs ... Mark Bavaro will still let his actions speak louder than his words ... and the Falcons will still have plenty of good seats available for home games.

What else can you expect to see in the National Football Conference this year? That's anybody's guess. But the following thoughts about what is best, worst and most unusual in the NFC these days should be a starting point for the confused football fan trying to get his bearings.

## THE COACHES

**Biggest shoes to fill**—Jimmy Johnson, Cowboys. Johnson already ranks as the second-best coach the Dallas Cowboys ever had, but that's because the only other one was Tom Landry. Cowboys fans weren't thrilled with the manner in which Landry was rudely deposed last February, making acceptance of Johnson even more difficult. Another coach with a tough act to follow is George Seifert, a native of San Francisco who became a stranger in paradise when he took over the 49ers' job from Bill Walsh shortly after they were declared Team of the Decade for winning their third Super Bowl in the 1980s.

**Best at almost but not quite choking**—Buddy Ryan, Eagles. Ryan required a Heimlich procedure to dislodge a piece of pork from his throat last year, then a few miracles helped his team rebound from a 4-5 start to finish with a 10-6 record and an NFC East title. Ryan must have gagged a little when he saw a 1989 schedule that includes Chicago, Minnesota, San Francisco and New Orleans as non-divisional opponents.

**Most volatile**—Mike Ditka, Bears. Never mind that malarkey about his being more tame after having that heart attack last year.

**Best job security**—Johnson, Cowboys. For now, anyway. After all, how many



**Most volatile:**  
*Chicago's Mike Ditka*



**Worst job security:**  
*Tampa Bay's Ray Perkins*

coaches played on the same college team as their owner?

**Worst job security**—Ray Perkins, Buccaneers. Some of the Tampa Bay players don't appreciate his rah-rah, college coaching tactics. Such methods might be condoned if they worked, but Perkins' pro record is 32-56 following last season's 5-11 finish.

**Most popular with the media**—Seifert, 49ers. His respect and straightforward candor may not be colorful, but they're a drastic departure from the eloquent put-downs of Walsh, who took time to criticize the San Francisco media nine times in a post-Super Bowl victory speech.

## THE PLAYERS

**Most generous**—Vinny Testaverde, Bucs. The Tampa Bay quarterback had a penchant for throwing interceptions last year (35), making defensive backs around the league think it was Christmas every time they played the Bucs. Unless the team around him improves, Testaverde is destined to become the Archie Manning of his time: so much talent, so little help.

**Praying for pub**—Reggie White, Eagles. The Philadelphia defensive end complains that his religious convictions are preventing him from getting more ink. Not so. It's just that biblical quotes aren't popular in sports stories.

**Best perspective**—Sam Kennedy, 49ers. Kennedy, the lowest-paid member of the 49ers (\$62,000) last season, took advantage of the Super Bowl media hype by charging for interviews. He began at 25 cents an interview, then upped it to a dollar based on the law of supply and demand. The linebacker was running out of quotes.

**Worst perspective**—Jerry Rice, 49ers. The wide receiver made a \$950,000 base salary last year and was named Most Valuable Player of the Super Bowl, getting 10 of 11 votes from a board of football writers. The week after the Super Bowl, Rice complained that he wasn't "appreciated" because he didn't get the recognition or endorsements he expected. After that, some companies admitted they rejected the notion of using Rice for endorsements because his own comments had hurt his image.

**Best use of Plan B**—Frank Winters, Giants, and Fred Stokes, Redskins (tie). Winters made \$80,000 as a backup center with the Cleveland Browns last year before the Giants offered him a \$100,000 signing bonus, a \$190,000 salary and \$10,000 in miscellaneous income. Stokes made \$71,000 while spending most of 1988 on injured reserve with the Rams. The defensive end then accepted a \$125,000 signing bonus, a base salary of \$185,000 and a possible \$15,000 in bonuses from Washington.

**Worst use of Plan B**—Herman Fontenot, Packers. The Packers wanted to give Fontenot a signing bonus and a raise to leave Cleveland as an unprotected free agent, but the running back opted to remain a Brown. So, on draft day, Cleveland traded him to Green Bay. He now must play under the terms of his old contract.

**Best interview**—Deion Sanders, Falcons. He's just a rookie, but he seems ready and able to uphold the tradition of talkative cornerbacks. He should beat out San Francisco's Tim McKyer for this honor.

**Worst interview**—Bavaro, Giants. Any





**Biggest disappointment:**  
*Chicago's William Perry*

interviewer who can coax more than one- or two-word responses from the talented tight end is a genius.

**Worst roommates**—Alex Higdon and Marcus Cotton, Falcons. Tight end Higdon and linebacker Cotton were rookies last year. Higdon arrived at training camp in his 1965 Buick, bragging about the junkyard engine he installed that had rolled up 140,000 miles. Cotton glided to camp in his \$63,000 Mercedes and kept it parked diagonally across three spaces. After several tussles on the field, it was obvious the two did not like each other. Still, Higdon tried to fashion a close relationship. He parked his Buick across those same three parking spaces within door-dinging distance of Cotton's precious Mercedes.

**Most exciting to watch**—Jerry Rice, 49ers. It's a joy to watch Rice run past defensive backs who have spent the previous week explaining how he won't beat them because he's not fast enough.

**Most overrated offensive lineman**—Jim Lachey, Redskins. He's a very good tackle, but his growing reputation is getting out of hand. When San Diego traded him to the Los Angeles Raiders last summer, he was a Pro Bowl player. By the time the Raiders traded him to Washington a few weeks later, he was incorrectly being called an All-Pro. One more trade and he should be in the Hall of Fame even if he doesn't play a down.

**Biggest disappointment**—Bubba Paris, 49ers, and William Perry, Bears (tie). They are, literally, huge disappointments. They were their respective teams' first draft picks a few years ago but have eaten their way out of promising careers.

## THE TEAMS

**Biggest rebuilding job**—Cowboys. That Dallas had a 3-13 record last year and

## TSN PREDICTIONS

### NFC EAST

#### 1. PHILADELPHIA

Question marks remain, but the Eagles' divisional rivals have more.

#### 2. WASHINGTON

The defense must be solidified, while Doug Williams' knees are a big concern.

#### 3. N.Y. GIANTS

To win, the offensive line must be consistent and the defense must dominate.

#### 4. DALLAS

A simpler offense and aggressive defense will produce marked improvement.

#### 5. PHOENIX

The offense could self-destruct along with a defense that remains vulnerable.

### NFC WEST

#### 1. L.A. RAMS

Jim Everett and an aggressive defense are a winning combination.

#### 2. SAN FRANCISCO

There is too much talent to expect a total flop after a Super Bowl triumph.

#### 3. NEW ORLEANS

The Saints need more big plays offensively and a rejuvenated pass rush.

#### 4. ATLANTA

The Falcons are making progress, but not enough in this rugged division.

### NFC CENTRAL

#### 1. CHICAGO

Until proven otherwise, the Bears remain the best in this division.

#### 2. MINNESOTA

A running game and a way to beat the troublesome Packers must be found.

#### 3. DETROIT

They might not win much, but the Lions will be exciting in the stretch offense.

#### 4. GREEN BAY

The Packers' improvement will be limited until they locate a solid quarterback.

#### 5. TAMPA BAY

Vinny's colorblindness isn't the problem; it's the lack of a running game.

Landry is gone is only half of the problem. The team's new owner, Jerry Jones, also has run off or fired almost everyone else in the organization, from President and General Manager Tex Schramm to the public relations director and even the assistant film person. Who will show the new people where everything is?

**Smallest rebuilding job**—49ers. Seifert inherits a Super Bowl champion and still has all the same executives in place—even Walsh, now a vice president.

**Best seats for sale**—Falcons. Atlanta-Fulton County Stadium has served as an outdoor echo chamber the last few years. Plans for a new domed stadium are now in the works. Unless the Falcons improve, it may become an indoor echo chamber.

**Most unprotected free agents signed**—Packers, 20. That either makes Green Bay this country's newest glamour city or refutes management's main concern that



**Most exciting to watch:**  
*San Francisco's Jerry Rice*

free agency would concentrate players in the country's most desirable cities.

**Fewest unprotected free agents signed**—Bears, 0. Somewhere, Papa Bear is smiling at that statistic.

**Best birds of prey**—Cardinals. The Cards did little to endear themselves to their new fans by charging the highest prices in the league for their seats.

**Most underrated offensive line**—49ers and Giants (tie). San Francisco's line is more misunderstood than underrated. The 49ers are known as a passing team, but who remembers that they also led the league in rushing in 1987 and were second last year? New York's line isn't great, but it shouldn't be blamed for all those times quarterback Phil Simms was sacked because he held onto the ball too long.

**Best bullpen**—49ers. If somebody, anybody, believes that Steve Young deserves the starting job over Joe Montana, then that's a pretty good guy in the bullpen. Trouble is, Young hasn't pitched enough consecutive innings to show his ability as a starter. As a reliever, his fastball isn't quite as good as his fast feet.

**Worst bullpen**—Saints. Dave Wilson and John Fourcade?

**Biggest loss**—Redskins. General Manager Bobby Beathard opted for California sun over D.C. fun. It will be interesting to see how well the Redskins hold up without the man most responsible for building and constantly rebuilding the team.

**Biggest gamble**—Lions. The Lions hired a Mouse to put some roar into their offense. Will Mouse Davis' run-and-shoot work as well as it did for the Houston Gamblers of the United States Football League? The Gamblers had Jim Kelly. Will the Lions use rookie Rodney Peete's athletic ability as firepower for the run-and-shoot? ■



# After 29 years, the guard has changed in Big D

By JIM DENT  
Dallas Times Herald

**Y**ou will need a program, and maybe the team's media guide, to follow the Dallas Cowboys this year.

It will seem odd not seeing Tom Landry's snap-brim hat on the sideline, or hearing about the latest rules change proposed by Tex Schramm, or reading about the rise and fall of Gil Brandt's drafting system. All three men are gone, along with most of the coaching staff and many other familiar faces in the front office.

The "J.J." era is beginning in Dallas. Replacing Landry, Schramm and Brandt are Jerry Jones and Jimmy Johnson, men who will perform jobs that several others were assigned to do in the previous 29 years. As Jones said when the sale of the team was approved in April, "I will be owner and general manager and Jimmy will be coach and general manager."

Jones has promised to transform the Cowboys into a "lean and mean" organization. On the day he fired Brandt in early May, Jones told the former scouting guru that the team was losing \$29,000 a day.

Johnson's job will be to turn the Cowboys around. The team finished a dismal 3-13 last season, and one of Johnson's first acts as coach was to dump most of the team rules instituted by Landry. The team even held a beer and barbecue party after its March mini-camp.

## COACHING

Johnson believes in loyalty and brought along most of his coaching staff from Miami (Fla.). On the advice of Miami Dolphins Coach Don Shula, he added David Shula as the Cowboys' offensive coordinator and assistant head coach. The younger Shula had been on his father's staff for seven seasons. Johnson also retained four coaches from the Landry regime: Dick Nolan (defensive backs), Alan Lowry (special teams), Bob Ward (strength) and Neill Armstrong, who will coordinate the



*One of Jimmy Johnson's first acts as coach was to dump most of the team rules instituted by Tom Landry.*

Cowboys' research and development.

## OFFENSE

**QUARTERBACKS**—The Cowboys' quarterback of the future has arrived in Troy Aikman, a 6-foot-3, 220-pound former UCLA All-America and the No. 1 pick of the draft. Aikman will be paid \$11 million over the next six years and, if he's not the opening-day starter (not a far-fetched possibility), he'll start soon thereafter.

Johnson was so impressed with Aikman's pre-draft workout that he immediately called Jones and started yelling into the mouthpiece. Johnson had just watched Aikman throw 50 straight passes accurately into a strong wind.

Johnson said he hasn't given up on Steve Pelluer, who struggled with a complex passing offense last year. But it's doubtful that 37-year-old Danny White will be around in 1989. The Cowboys didn't exercise the option year of his contract, and White has told reporters that he wouldn't mind playing for another team.

**RUNNING BACKS**—There's no doubt about the starter here. Herschel Walker carried the ball more times (361) and gained more yardage (1,514) in 1988 than any other running back in the NFC.

The first priority for 1989 will be for Walker to break more long runs and score more touchdowns. His longest run last season was only 38 yards, and he scored just five rushing touchdowns, a low figure for a starting tailback.

That's one of the reasons why the Cowboys took Syracuse fullback Daryl Johnston in the second round of the draft. Johnston weighs 237 pounds and is an excellent blocker and good receiver.

The drafting of Johnston sends a clear message to veteran Timmy Newsome, the incumbent fullback who had decided to retire at the end of last season before changing his mind. Newsome, however, is a mediocre blocker who may be better suited as a backup tailback to Walker.

**RECEIVERS**—Nothing would make Johnson happier than to have Michael Irvin, a former Miami Hurricane star, become an outstanding National Football League wide receiver.

Irvin missed two full games as a rookie last season and didn't catch a pass in two others because of a badly sprained ankle. He finished with only 32 receptions but averaged a whopping 20.4 yards per catch.

Ray Alexander, a former Canadian Football League player, caught a team-high 54 passes and became the Cowboys' most reliable receiver. Kelvin Martin caught 49 passes in his second pro season.

The Cowboys will be weak at tight end following the departure of longtime starter Doug Cosbie, who was left unprotected during the free-agency period last spring and later signed with Denver.

The starter in '89 figures to be Thornton Chandler, who started the final 12 games in 1988 but is still far from fulfilling the expectations the Cowboys have for him.

**LINEMEN**—After three years of building an offensive line that emphasized size over speed (the average Dallas offensive lineman weighed almost 300 pounds), the Cowboys are looking to buck the current NFL trend toward overweight blockers. Like Jones, Johnson uses words like "lean" and "mean" when he talks about the Cowboys.

Because of the new philosophy, there could be three or four different starters on the line this year. Guard Crawford Ker went through the off-season without a contract and 34-year-old center Tom Rafferty will be challenged for his job by Mark Stepnoski, a former Pitt star drafted in the third round. Stepnoski, a guard in college, will likely be moved to center.

The leading candidates for starting jobs at tackle are Kevin Gogan and Daryle Smith. Smith, who can keep his weight at around 280 pounds, will likely adjust better to Johnson's scheme than Gogan, who improved last season but is more suited to play at 310 pounds.

One player definitely in trouble is guard Nate Newton, who started 15 games a year ago but ballooned to 358 pounds during the off-season. He stands to lose upward of \$50,000 if he doesn't meet a 300-pound weight limit.

## DEFENSE

**LINEMEN**—The Cowboys enter camp with only five healthy veteran linemen following the retirement of 14-year star Randy White, a nine-time Pro Bowl performer. So it was no surprise when Dallas grabbed Florida's Rhondy Weston (third round) and Jeff Roth (fifth) and Texas-El Paso's Tony Tolbert (fourth) in the draft

## AT A GLANCE

**Strengths:** Herschel Walker should be even better in '89 playing alongside newcomer Troy Aikman. Wide receiver should be a plus if Michael Irvin remains healthy.

**Weaknesses:** The Cowboys' defense ranked 20th overall in the NFL last season and had a league-low 10 interceptions. Dallas needs a good pass-rushing defensive end and help at outside linebacker.

**Key to success:** The sooner Aikman becomes the starting quarterback, the better.

**Sure sign of trouble:** If Walker gets hurt or the offensive line fails to improve.

**That's a fact:** Dallas lost 10 straight games last season to tie a club record.

**The head coach says:** "We will attack our opponent. I think the players will like it, and I think the fans will like it."





last spring.

What the Cowboys need most is a pass-rushing end. Jim Jeffcoat has had just 11½ sacks from his right end position in the last two years.

Unlike their glory days, the Cowboys have no All-Pros on the defensive line. At 38, Ed Jones will be a spot player in what will be his final NFL season.

Left tackle Kevin Brooks has been a disappointment in his four years in Dallas, and right tackle Danny Noonan has had trouble maintaining his weight of 270 pounds. Both are former first-round draft choices who have not lived up to their draft status thus far.

**LINEBACKERS**—The Cowboys have little talent and almost no depth here.

The most steady player has been middle linebacker Eugene Lockhart, who is becoming one of the league's best inside players. He was second on the team with 121 tackles last year.

Left outside linebacker Ron Burton had a disappointing 1988 season but should improve without the flex defense, which Johnson scrapped and which placed great restrictions on the outside linebackers. The same can be said of right outside linebacker Jeff Rohrer, who spent the entire '88 season on injured reserve after having major disk surgery last summer. He was replaced by Garry Cobb, a free agent who had a surprisingly good season.

**DEFENSIVE BACKS**—A disaster area last season. The Cowboys' 10 interceptions were the fewest of any team in the league, and Dallas was the only club without one player getting at least three interceptions.

A lack of speed was often blamed. Free safety Michael Downs had just two interceptions and was released by the Cowboys in May. Ray Horton, a free agent left unprotected by Cincinnati, will likely be the starting free safety.

Though few players have more intensity than strong safety Bill Bates, he is probably better suited for special-teams play. Bates had just one interception last season but led the Cowboys with 124 tackles.

A pleasant surprise in 1988 was the play of cornerback Robert Williams, who replaced former Baylor teammate Ron Francis in the starting lineup when Francis injured a shoulder in training camp.

The other cornerback, Everson Walls, is still one of the best in football.

## SPECIAL TEAMS

After missing training camp and the first two games of the season because of a contract dispute, Roger Ruzek fell from being the league's second-most accurate field-goal kicker in 1987 to its worst in '88. He converted just 12 of 22 attempts last season after hitting 22 of 25 the previous year. Punter Mike Saxon compiled a 40.9-yard average on 80 kicks.

The Cowboys were happy with Cornell Burbage's 22.4-yard kickoff return average, but he might have trouble making the team as a wide receiver (just two catches last year). One interesting rookie to watch is free agent Tyrone Thurman, who compiled more than 4,000 punt return yards as a collegian at Texas Tech. ■

# COWBOYS DATA

## 1989 ROSTER

	Ht./Wt.	NFL Exp.	College	1988 Games GP/GS
<b>QUARTERBACKS</b>				
Aikman, Troy	6-3/220	D1	UCLA	—
Pelluer, Steve	6-4/212	6	Washington	16/14
Secules, Scott	6-3/219	2	Virginia	0/0
White, Danny	6-3/200	14	Arizona State	3/0
<b>RUNNING BACKS</b>				
Clack, Darryl	5-10/220	4	Arizona State	15/0
Fogor, Charvez	5-10/211	D8	Nevada-Reno	—
Fowler, Todd (FB)	6-3/226	5	Stephen F. Austin St.	16/6
Johnston, Daryl	6-2/237	D2	Syracuse	—
Newsome, Timmy (FB)	6-1/236	10	Winston-Salem (N.C.)	St. 9/8
Sargent, Broderick (FB)	5-11/215	3	Baylor	*0/0
Scott, Kevin	5-9/181	1	Stanford	*1/0
Tautalatasi, Junior	5-11/208	4	Washington State	*10/0
Walker, Herschel	6-1/226	4	Georgia	16/16
<b>RECEIVERS</b>				
Alexander, Ray	6-4/193	3	Florida A&M	16/11
Ankrom, Scott	6-1/200	D12	Texas Christian	—
Barksdale, Rod	6-1/192	3	Arizona	IR
Chandler, Thornton (TE)	6-5/240	4	Alabama	16/12
Dean, Kent (TE)	6-4/234	1	Kansas State	IR
Edwards, Kelvin	6-2/204	4	Liberty (Va.)	8/2
Folsom, Steve (TE)	6-5/240	4	Utah	16/4
Gay, Everett	6-2/209	2	Texas	16/0
Irvin, Michael	6-2/202	2	Miami (Fla.)	14/10
James, Arrike (TE)	6-4/251	2	Delta (Miss.) State	*0/0
Jennings, Keith (TE)	6-4/241	D5a	Gleason	—
Jones, Anthony (TE)	6-3/248	5	Wichita State	*12/4
Martin, Kelvin	5-9/163	3	Boston College	16/7
<b>OFFENSIVE LINEMEN</b>				
Coyle, Eric (C)	6-3/260	2	Colorado	*0/0
Gogan, Kevin (T)	6-7/306	3	Washington	15/15
Hooven, Owen (T)	6-8/302	1	Oregon State	IR
Hutson, Mark (G)	6-3/289	1	Oklahoma	IR
Ker, Crawford (G)	6-3/290	5	Florida	16/16
Marrone, Doug	6-5/295	2	Syracuse	*0/0
Newton, Nate (G)	6-3/314	4	Florida A&M	15/15
Rafferty, Tom (C)	6-3/264	14	Penn State	15/13
Smith, Darryl (C)	6-5/276	3	Tennessee	14/4
Stepnoski, Mark (G)	6-2/269	D3a	Pittsburgh	—
Tikens, Glen (G)	6-4/270	8	Brigham Young	10/1
Tuinei, Mark (T)	6-5/282	7	Hawaii	5/4
White, Bob (C)	6-5/273	3	Rhode Island	12/3
Widell, Dave (T)	6-6/300	2	Boston College	14/9
Zimmerman, Jeff (G)	6-3/313	2	Florida	1/0
<b>DEFENSIVE LINEMEN</b>				
Brooks, Kevin (T)	6-6/284	5	Michigan	15/14
Jeffcoat, Jim (E)	6-5/262	7	Arizona State	16/15
Jones, Ed (E)	6-9/278	15	Tennessee State	16/16
Noonan, Danny (T)	6-4/266	3	Nebraska	16/16
Roth, Jeff (T)	6-3/256	D5c	Florida	—
Sileo, Dan (T)	6-2/291	2	Miami (Fla.)	*0/0
Tolbert, Tony (E)	6-6/245	D4	Texas-El Paso	—
Walen, Mark	6-5/267	3	UCLA	15/2
Weston, Rhondy (E)	6-5/274	D3b	Florida	—
<b>LINEBACKERS</b>				
Burton, Ron	6-1/245	3	North Carolina	16/15
Carter, Rod	6-1/228	D10	Miami (Fla.)	—
Cobb, Garry	6-2/233	11	Southern California	16/14
Crockett, Willis	6-3/221	D5b	Georgia Tech	—
DeOssie, Steve	6-2/246	6	Boston College	16/1
Hurd, Jeff	6-2/245	2	Kansas State	IR
Lockhart, Eugene	6-2/235	6	Houston	16/16
Napoksi, Eric	6-2/230	2	Connecticut	*3/0
Norton, Ken	6-2/236	2	UCLA	3/0
Peterson, Kevin	6-2/227	D7	Northwestern	—
Rohrer, Jeff	6-2/222	7	Yale	IR
Shannon, Randy	6-0/224	D11	Miami (Fla.)	—
<b>DEFENSIVE BACKS</b>				
Albritton, Vince (S)	6-2/220	6	Washington	6/0
Bates, Bill (S)	6-1/200	7	Tennessee	16/16
Burbage, Cornell	5-10/189	3	Kentucky	10/0
Clark, Kevin	5-10/185	3	San Jose State	*3/0
Dykes, Sean (CB)	5-9/178	2	Bowling Green State	*0/0
Francis, Ron (CB)	5-9/201	3	Baylor	13/2
Hendrix, Manny (CB)	5-10/181	4	Utah	16/0
Horton, Ray	5-11/190	7	Washington	*14/0
Jackson, Tim	5-11/192	D9	Nebraska	—
Owens, Billy (S)	6-1/207	2	Pittsburgh	16/0
Walls, Everson (CB)	6-1/193	9	Grambling State	16/16
Williams, Robert (CB)	5-10/186	3	Baylor	16/14
<b>SPECIALISTS</b>				
Manca, Massimo (K)	5-10/200	2	Penn State	0/0
Mazza, Vince (P)	6-3/225	1	Ashtand	0/0
Ruzek, Roger (K)	6-1/195	3	Weber State	14/0
Saxon, Mike (P)	6-3/198	5	San Diego State	16/0
<b>OTHER FREE AGENTS IN CAMP</b>				
Scott Adams, OT; Eric Brown, DB; Sam Collins, DL; Richard Crosby, WR; Shawn Daniels, RB; Reggie Davis, WR; John Duff, TE; Ervin Farris, RB; Darryl Ford, LB; Stacey Hairston, DB; Paul Hewitt, RB; Jeff James, WR; Eddie Johnson, DB; Ken Kuiper, OT; Zefross Moss, OT; Robert Robinson, DB; Sean Scheller, DE; Mark Seals, DB; Ricky Siglar, OT; Tyrone Thurman, WR; Ken Tippins, LB.				

\*Not with Dallas in 1988.

IR—Injured reserve.

Key to abbreviations on page 160.

## COACHES

Head coach—Jimmy Johnson.

Assistant coaches—

Hubbard Alexander (receivers).

Neill Armstrong (research and development).

Joe Brodsky (running backs).

Dave Campo (defensive assistant).

Butch Davis (defensive line).

Alan Lowry (special teams).

Dick Nolan (defensive backs).

Jerry Rhome (quarterbacks).

Dave Shula (assistant head coach/offensive coordinator).

Dave Wannstedt (defensive coordinator/linebackers).

Bob Ward (conditioning).

Tony Wise (offensive line).

## RECORDS/RANKINGS

1988 regular-season record: 3-13 (5th in NFC East); 2-6 in division; 3-9 in conference; 1-7 at home; 2-6 on road.

1988 playoff record: None.

1988 team rankings: total offense, 6th in NFC/9th in NFL; total defense, 12th/20th; rushing offense, 7th/16th; rushing defense, 10th/13th; passing offense, 5th/7th; passing defense, 12th/24th; scoring offense, 10th/21st; scoring defense, 12th/25th; takeaways, 14th/28th; giveaways, 11th/25th; turnover differential, 13th/27th; sacks, 4th/T4th; sacks allowed, 6th/15th.

Johnson's regular-season record: First year as NFL head coach.

Team record last five years: 36-43 (.456, ranks T16th in league in that span).

## 1989 SCHEDULE

Sept. 10—at New Orleans	
Sept. 17—at Atlanta	
Sept. 24—Washington	
Oct. 1—New York Giants	
Oct. 8—at Green Bay	
Oct. 15—San Francisco	
Oct. 22—at Kansas City	
Oct. 29—Phoenix	
Nov. 5—at Washington	
Nov. 12—at Phoenix	
Nov. 19—Miami	
Nov. 23—Philadelphia (Thanksgiving)	
Dec. 3—Los Angeles Rams	
Dec. 10—at Philadelphia	
Dec. 16—at New York Giants (Sat.)	
Dec. 24—Green Bay	

## 1988 RESULTS

Sept. 4—at Pittsburgh	21-24
Sept. 12—at Phoenix	17-14
Sept. 18—N.Y. Giants	10-12
Sept. 25—Atlanta	26-20
Oct. 3—at New Orleans	17-20
Oct. 9—Washington	17-35
Oct. 16—at Chicago	7-17
Oct. 23—at Philadelphia	23-24
Oct. 30—Phoenix	10-16
Nov. 6—at N.Y. Giants	21-29
Nov. 13—Minnesota	3-43
Nov. 20—Cincinnati	24-38
Nov. 27—Houston	17-25
Dec. 4—at Cleveland	21-24
Dec. 11—at Washington	24-17
Dec. 18—Philadelphia	7-23

## 1988 LEADERS

Scoring (kicking): Roger Ruzek, 63 pts. (27/27 PATs, 12/22 FGs).

Scoring (touchdowns): Herschel Walker, 42 pts. (5 rushing, 2 receiving).

Passing: Steve Pelluer, 3,139 yds. (435 att., 245 comp., 56.3%, 17 TDs, 19 int.).

Rushing: Herschel Walker, 1,514 yds. (4.2 avg., 5 TDs).

Receptions: Ray Alexander, 54 (788 yds., 14.6 avg., 6 TDs).

Interceptions: Robert Williams, 2 (18 yds., 0 TDs); Michael Downs, 2 (3 yds., 0 TDs); Everson Walls, 2 (0 yds., 0 TDs).

Tackles: Bill Bates, 124 (85 solo, 39 assisted).

Sacks: Danny Noonan, 7½ (55 yds.); Garry Cobb, 7½ (48 yds.).

Punting: Mike Saxon, 40.9 avg. (80 punts, 3,271 yds., 0 blocked).

Punt returns: Kelvin Martin, 8.2 avg. (44 att., 360 yds., 0 TDs).

Kickoff returns: Cornell Burbage, 22.4 avg. (20 att., 448 yds., 0 TDs).



# Giants need big years from their best players

By HANK GOLLA  
New York Post

**N**ew York Giants fans haven't had much to cheer about since Super Bowl XXI, the last time their team was in a playoff game. Even with a 10-6 record last year, the season was marred by a 27-21 loss to the cross-town rival Jets in the last game of the regular season. With the NFC East championship and a playoff berth on the line, the Giants failed in their biggest game in two years.

The Giants have a good nucleus of talent in linebackers Lawrence Taylor and Carl Banks, quarterback Phil Simms, running back Joe Morris and tight end Mark Bavaro. They figure to contend for the playoffs in 1989, but without improvement in the offensive line and more dominant play from their stellar defense, a run at the Super Bowl isn't likely.

## COACHING

Bill Parcells has been under mild criticism for the Giants' failure to make the playoffs the last two seasons. To get the team back into the postseason party, he must rejuvenate a defense that has lacked a killer instinct since the Super Bowl year.

The only addition to the staff is former Wake Forest head coach Al Groh, who will work with the linebackers. Defensive coordinator Bill Belichick will handle the defensive backs, a unit coached last year by Len Fontes, who retired and went into private business. Belichick handled the linebackers in '88.

## OFFENSE

**QUARTERBACKS**—Simms is still one of the top signal-callers in the NFL and the Giants are praying for his good health. A tough, gutsy performer, Simms may be second only to Joe Montana for delivering in the clutch.

As good as Simms is, he'll be 33 in November and the Giants still don't have a successor lined up. Jeff Hostetler joined the team in 1984 and has done little since



*Mark Collins, an excellent cover man, is among the most underrated defensive backs in the league.*

then to suggest he could be a starting NFL quarterback. He has a good arm but botched his only starting assignment last season against New Orleans in a game Simms missed due to injury. Hostetler lasted slightly more than two quarters before Parcells yanked him in favor of Jeff Rutledge, who went on to guide the team to a 13-12 victory.

Rutledge, who is entering his 11th pro season, is intelligent and well-liked but short on arm strength.

**RUNNING BACKS**—The conventional wisdom was that the Giants wanted to get away from a running game based almost entirely on Morris, who has slacked off the last two years after magnificent seasons in 1985 and '86. The 5-foot-7, 195-pound Morris is a terrific runner but limited as a blocker and receiver.

The Giants have a hodgepodge of backs who do certain things well, but no one player who does everything well. Morris can run, Maurice Carthon can block, George Adams can catch and Ottis Anderson can pick up the tough, short yardage. Even fourth-round draft pick Lewis Tillman isn't a do-it-all back. He did most of his running over people while breaking Walter Payton's school records at Jackson State and isn't considered an open-field burner.

**RECEIVERS**—The best thing to happen to the Giants last year was the development of a young, talented receiving corps. Lionel Manuel avoided injuries for the first time in his career last season and had his best year—65 receptions for 1,029 yards.

The other starter is Stephen Baker, who

seized his opportunity when others were injured last year and became the Giants' big-play man. He caught 40 passes for a 16.4-yard average and seven touchdowns.

Much of the Giants' passing success depends on the health of tight end Bavaro, a player whose presence on the field spreads the defense and assists the rest of the Giant offense. A former Pro Bowler, Bavaro was bothered by a chronic turf toe and a sore shoulder last year. Both required off-season surgery, as did a ligament problem in his thumb. The thumb injury was one reason why Bavaro dropped seven passes in New York's first 12 games and finished the season with just four touchdown catches.

**LINEMEN**—This area is unsettled, as usual. Starting guard Bill Ard was left unprotected during free agency and stunned the Giants by signing with Green Bay, leaving an uncertain line even more so.

New York tried to alleviate the problem by taking Minnesota's Brian Williams and Iowa's Bob Kratch with their first two draft picks last spring, the second straight year the Giants drafted Big Ten tackles 1-2. Both have a chance to start.

Ard's vacated left-guard spot figures to be a battle between Williams, a 300-pounder with 4.9-second speed over 40 yards, and Frank Winters, a highly sought free-agent player who spent last season with Cleveland.

With Ard gone, center Bart Oates is the last starter remaining from the Suburbanites of Super Bowl XXI and probably the only Giant lineman who can be sure of where he'll be lining up. Last year's No. 1 pick, Eric Moore, was drafted as a tackle and finished the season as the starting right guard. Jumbo Elliott, a second-round pick in '88, was overpowering on the run at left tackle but may not have the quick feet to stay there.

Doug Riesenberger is the incumbent at right tackle and should remain there unless Moore is moved back outside or William Roberts is given yet another opportunity at the job. Kratch and Damian Johnson, the starter last year until he injured his back, will get a crack at the right guard spot.

## DEFENSE

**LINEMEN**—There was some off-season discussion about changing to a 4-3 defense, but the Giants' base will remain the 3-4. The front three is not as fearsome as it once was. Leonard Marshall, a two-time Pro Bowl end, has slacked off as a sacker (eight last year) and has streaks of games where he is largely ineffective.

Erik Howard was given every chance to win the nose tackle job from eight-year veteran Jim Burt last year but never developed Burt's instincts or technique. The two ended up sharing time. Burt considered a free-agent offer from Green Bay but decided to stay in New York.

The coaching staff is still waiting for 6-foot-5, 280-pound Eric Dorsey, a former No. 1 pick, to play at first-round level. He

## AT A GLANCE

**Strengths:** Phil Simms, a healthy Mark Bavaro and a deep wide receiving corps. The defense, led by linebackers Lawrence Taylor and Carl Banks, is among the league's best.

**Weaknesses:** The running game averaged just 105 yards a game in '88 and needs to improve. There is little depth at linebacker.

**Key to success:** The Giants' offensive line must take charge early in the season. Banks and Bavaro must return to previous form.

**Sure sign of trouble:** Simms on the ground, clutching a body part. Lawrence Taylor flunking a third drug test.

**That's a fact:** The Giants make five trips west, six if Dallas is included.

**The head coach says:** "We've averaged something like 11 wins the last five years. We must be doing something right."





had a steady season last year, his first as a full-time player, and led all down linemen with 69 tackles.

**LINEBACKERS**—For the first time in 14 years, Harry Carson won't be in the middle of the New York defense. His retirement leaves two experienced players—Gary Reasons and Pepper Johnson—with starting jobs but the team with practically no depth. The Giants didn't draft or sign any inside linebackers, leaving Johnnie Cooks, a natural outside man, as their only possible inside backup. A trade is possible.

The team desperately needs a great season from Banks, who virtually disappeared last year (1½ sacks) after establishing himself as one of the league's most feared outside linebackers. A holdout and a series of minor injuries slowed Banks, who finished seventh on the team in tackles in '88 after leading the Giants in that department the previous two seasons.

Then there's Taylor, perhaps the greatest outside linebacker ever. Taylor missed New York's first four games last year because of a drug suspension and faces a lifetime ban with his next offense. Taylor played well enough to lead the team with 15½ sacks in 12 games and earn his eighth straight Pro Bowl appearance.

Reasons had his best season since '86 last year and has patched up a rocky relationship with Parcells. Johnson inherits Carson's weakside inside spot, where the Giants like to funnel the run.

**DEFENSIVE BACKS**—The Giants need improvement here. In the past, they've always relied on their pass rush to help cover up for a weak secondary. The coaches figure it's about time for the defensive backfield to carry its own weight.

To that end, changes are in order. The Giants signed former 49ers safety Greg Cox as a free agent, and they think he can win a starting job. Adrian White, a No. 2 draft pick in '87, has a good chance to start at the other safety spot. If that happens, veterans Kenny Hill and Terry Kinard, a Pro Bowl alternate last year, are likely to be relegated to backup duty.

The cornerbacks should remain unchanged. Mark Collins, an excellent cover man, is among the most underrated defensive backs in the league. Sheldon White, a third-round pick in '88, led the team with four interceptions after taking over for the injured Perry Williams on the right side. Williams may be moved to safety once he rebounds from a neck injury.

## SPECIAL TEAMS

Raul Allegre and Sean Landeta are back as the Giants' placekicker and punter, respectively, after Paul McFadden and Maury Buford were let go as free agents. Allegre was 10 for 11 on field-goal opportunities in 1988, while Landeta missed nearly the entire year after suffering a back injury in the first game.

Veteran Phil McConkey's job as the punt returner is in jeopardy after the drafting of Towson State's 5-7, 179-pound Dave Meggett, who might give the Giants a breakout threat for the first time in a long time. ■

# GIANTS DATA

## 1989 ROSTER

QUARTERBACKS	Ht./Wt.	NFL Exp.	College	1988 Games GP/GS
Hostetler, Jeff	6-3/212	6	West Virginia	16/1
Perez, Mike	6-1/210	1	San Jose State	1R
Rutledge, Jeff	6-1/195	11	Alabama	1/0
Simms, Phil	6-3/214	11	Morehead State	15/15
RUNNING BACKS				
Adams, George	6-1/225	5	Kentucky	16/1
Anderson, Otis	6-2/225	11	Miami (Fla.)	16/0
Carthon, Maurice	6-1/225	5	Arkansas State	16/14
Meggett, Dave	5-7/175	D5	Towson State	—
Morris, Joe	5-7/195	8	Syracuse	16/15
Richardson, Tim	6-0/215	1	Pacific	1R
Rouson, Lee	6-1/222	5	Colorado	16/0
Tillman, Lewis	5-11/195	D4a	Jackson State	—
RECEIVERS				
Baker, Stephen	5-8/160	3	Fresno State	16/11
Baty, Greg (TE)	6-5/241	3	Stanford	*1/0
Bavaro, Mark (TE)	6-4/245	5	Notre Dame	16/15
Cross, Howard (TE)	6-5/250	D6	Alabama	—
Ingram, Mark	5-10/188	3	Michigan State	7/4
Manuel, Lionel	5-11/180	6	Pacific	16/16
McConkey, Phil	5-10/170	6	Navy	16/0
Mowatt, Zeke (TE)	6-3/240	6	Florida State	16/3
Robinson, Stacy	5-11/186	5	North Dakota State	11/0
Schippang, Gary (TE)	6-4/275	1	West Chester (Pa.)	1R
Turner, Odessa	6-3/205	3	Northwestern (La.) St.	4/1
DEFENSIVE LINEMEN				
Elliott, John (T)	6-7/305	2	Michigan	16/5
Johnson, Damian (T)	6-5/290	4	Kansas State	6/6
Kratch, Bob (G)	6-3/285	D3a	Iowa	—
Moore, Eric (T)	6-5/290	2	Indiana	11/10
Oates, Bart (C)	6-3/265	5	Brigham Young	16/16
Popp, Dave (T)	6-6/285	D7	Eastern Illinois	—
Riesenbren, Doug (T)	6-5/275	3	California	16/11
Roberts, William (T)	6-5/280	5	Ohio State	16/13
Williams, Brian	6-5/295	D1	Minnesota	—
Winters, Frank (G)	6-4/273	3	Western Illinois	*16/0
DEFENSIVE LINEMEN				
Althoff, Jim (T)	6-3/278	2	Winona (Minn.) State	*0/0
Burt, Jim (NT)	6-1/260	9	Miami (Fla.)	16/11
Carter, Jon (E)	6-4/260	1	Pittsburgh	1R
Dorsey, Eric (E)	6-5/280	3	Notre Dame	16/16
Henke, Brad (NT)	6-3/267	D4b	Arizona	—
Howard, Erik (NT)	6-4/268	4	Washington State	16/5
Lambrecht, Mike	6-1/275	3	St. Cloud (Minn.) St.	*8/0
Lowe, Rodney (E)	6-4/260	D10	Mississippi	—
Marshall, Leonard (E)	6-3/285	7	Louisiana State	15/14
Washington, John (E)	6-4/275	4	Oklahoma State	16/2
White, Robb (E)	6-4/270	1	South Dakota	1/0
LINEBACKERS				
Banks, Carl	6-4/235	6	Michigan State	14/14
Cooks, Johnie	6-4/251	7	Mississippi State	13/3
Headen, Andy	6-5/242	7	Clemson	4/3
Johnson, Pepper	6-3/248	4	Ohio State	16/15
Reasons, Gary	6-4/234	6	Northwestern (La.) St.	16/7
Rinehart, Jerome	6-3/235	D11	Tennessee-Martin	—
Shaw, Ricky	6-4/240	2	Oklahoma State	14/0
Smith, Eric	6-3/240	D12	UCLA	—
Taylor, Lawrence	6-3/243	9	North Carolina	12/12
DEFENSIVE BACKS				
Collins, Mark (CB)	5-10/190	4	Cal State Fullerton	11/11
Cox, Greg (S)	6-0/223	2	San Jose State	*15/0
Flynn, Tom (S)	6-0/195	6	Pittsburgh	16/0
Greene, A.J. (CB)	5-8/165	D9	Wake Forest	—
Guyton, Myron (S)	6-1/203	D8	Eastern Kentucky	—
Haddix, Wayne (CB)	6-1/203	3	Liberty (Va.)	7/0
Hill, Kenny (S)	6-0/195	9	Yale	16/16
Jackson, Greg (S)	6-0/198	D3b	Louisiana State	—
Kinard, Terry (S)	6-1/200	7	Clemson	16/16
Thompson, Reyna	6-0/196	4	Baylor	*16/2
Welch, Herb	5-11/180	5	UCLA	1R
White, Adrian (S)	6-0/200	3	Florida	16/0
White, Sheldon	5-11/188	2	Miami (O.)	16/5
Williams, Perry (CB)	6-2/203	6	North Carolina St.	16/16
SPECIALISTS				
Allegre, Raul (K)	5-10/167	7	Texas	6/0
Landeta, Sean (P)	6-0/200	5	Towson State	1/0
Nittmo, Bjorn (K)	5-10/180	R	Appalachian State	—
Smith, Billy (P)	5-11/193	R	UT-Chattanooga	—
OTHER FREE AGENTS IN CAMP				
Lish Adams, LB; Derron Calvert, WR; Leon Cole, DE; Leroy Etienne, LB; Jeff Fryar, OT; Mike Hooten, LB; Stanley Howard, WR; Dave Hudson, RB; Jason Kuipers, C; Greg Kunkel, T; Mike McCreary, LB; Frank Miotke, WR; Tony Pearcey, WR; Anthony Simpson, FB; Dean Tiebout, OT; Dayne Williams, RB.				

\*Not with N.Y. Giants in 1988.

1R—Injured reserve.

Key to abbreviations on page 160.

## COACHES

Head coach—Bill Parcells.

Assistant coaches—Bill Belichick (defensive coordinator/defensive backs).

Tom Coughlin (receivers).

Romeo Crennel (special teams).

Ron Erhardt (offensive coordinator).

Al Groh (linebackers).

Ray Handley (running backs).

Fred Hoaglin (offensive line).

Lamar Leachman (defensive line).

Johnny Parker (strength and conditioning).

Mike Pope (tight ends).

Mike Sweatman (defensive assistant).

## RECORDS/RANKINGS

1988 regular-season record: 10-6 (2nd in NFC East); 5-3 in division; 9-5 in conference; 5-3 at home; 5-3 on road.

1988 playoff record: None.

1988 team rankings: total offense, 11th in NFC/20th in NFL; total defense, 6th/11th; rushing offense, 11th/23rd; rushing defense, 8th/10th; passing offense, 10th/14th; passing defense, 8th/T18th; scoring offense, 5th/8th; scoring defense, 6th/9th; takeaways, 9th/T16th; giveaways, 3rd/T3rd; turnover differential, 4th/T7th; sacks, 2nd/2nd; sacks allowed, T13th/T27th.

Parcells' regular-season record: 52-42-1 in 6 seasons with Giants.

Parcells' postseason record: 5-2 in playoffs with Giants (1-0 in Super Bowl).

Team record last five years: 49-30 (.620, ranks 5th in league in that span).

## 1989 SCHEDULE

Sept. 11—at Washington (Mon.)	
Sept. 17—Detroit	
Sept. 24—Phoenix	
Oct. 1—at Dallas	
Oct. 8—at Philadelphia	
Oct. 15—Washington	
Oct. 22—at San Diego	
Oct. 30—Minnesota (Mon.)	
Nov. 5—at Phoenix	
Nov. 12—at Los Angeles Rams	
Nov. 19—Seattle	
Nov. 27—at San Francisco (Mon.)	
Dec. 3—Philadelphia	
Dec. 10—at Denver	
Dec. 16—Dallas (Sat.)	
Dec. 24—Los Angeles Raiders	

## 1988 RESULTS

Sept. 5—Washington	27-20
Sept. 11—San Francisco	17-20
Sept. 18—at Dallas	12-10
Sept. 25—L.A. Rams	31-45
Oct. 2—at Washington	24-23
Oct. 10—at Philadelphia	13-24
Oct. 16—Detroit	30-10
Oct. 23—at Atlanta	23-16
Oct. 30—at Detroit (OT)	13-10
Nov. 6—Dallas	29-21
Nov. 13—at Phoenix	17-24
Nov. 20—Philadelphia (OT)	17-23
Nov. 27—at New Orleans	13-12
Dec. 4—Phoenix	44-7
Dec. 11—Kansas City	28-12
Dec. 18—at N.Y. Jets	21-27

## 1988 LEADERS

Scoring (kicking): Paul McFadden, 67 pts. (25/27 PATs, 14/19 FGs).

Scoring (touchdowns): Otis Anderson, 48 pts. (8 rushing).

Passing: Phil Simms, 3,359 yds. (479 att., 263 comp., 54.9% 21 TDs, 11 int.).

Rushing: Joe Morris, 1,083 yds. (3.5 avg., 5 TDs).

Receptions: Lionel Manuel, 65 (1,029 yds., 15.8 avg., 4 TDs).

Interceptions: Sheldon White, 4 (70 yds., 0 TDs).

Tackles: Pepper Johnson, 93 (77 solo, 16 assisted).

Sacks: Lawrence Taylor, 15½ (130 yds.).

Punting: Maury Buford, 41.3 avg. (73 punts, 3,012 yds., 2 blocked).

Punt returns: Phil McConkey, 7.8 avg. (40 att., 313 yds., 0 TDs).

Kickoff returns: Neal Guggemos, 20.2 avg. (17 att., 344 yds., 0 TDs).



# If 'God is on their side,' Eagles might soar again

By PHIL ANASTASIA  
Camden Courier-Post

**T**he Philadelphia Eagles have no chance of repeating. They might go 10-6 again. They might win the NFC East again. In fact, they probably are the favorites as long as quarterback Randall Cunningham and defensive lineman Reggie White remain healthy.

But the Eagles have no chance of doing in 1989 what they did in 1988. They have no chance of following the same improbable path to the top of the division.

The Eagles won the NFC East a year ago despite a porous pass defense and an almost non-existent running game. They won with such good fortune that Cunningham was moved on a number of occasions to note that "God is on our side."

It's unknown whose side the deity will be on in 1989, but the Eagles probably will be a better team. They are young, talented and enthusiastic. They will need to be better to match their 10-6 record and retain their division crown.

The Eagles have a bear of a schedule and little depth. Their draft provided virtually no help (they selected only four players, the fewest in NFL history). And an injury to Cunningham or White would be devastating.

"If we're going to repeat, we have to do two things," Coach Buddy Ryan said. "We have to get a consistent pass rush from our front four, and we have to get our running game going."

## COACHING

Ryan was on the rocks nine games into last season. The Eagles were 4-5 after a loss to 1-7 Atlanta. Ryan was looking at his third consecutive losing season, and Owner Norman Braman was looking for alternative coaches.

The Eagles, however, won six of their last seven, stole the division from the Giants and made Ryan the toast of the town.

In three years, Ryan has remade the



*Reggie White, the NFL's sack leader the last two seasons, is regarded by many as the best defensive lineman in the game.*

Eagles into a young, aggressive, opportunistic team. His rebuilding program was helped immeasurably by the fact that Cunningham, White and wide receiver Mike Quick were on the roster when he arrived, but there can be no disputing Ryan's eye for talent.

His game-day decisions sometimes are questioned, but Ryan's willingness to take chances is contagious, and the Eagles are a team that plays to win instead of not to lose.

## OFFENSE

**QUARTERBACKS**—Any lingering doubts about Randall Cunningham's status as one of the league's best quarterbacks were erased last season.

Cunningham passed for 3,808 yards and 24 touchdowns. He also led the team in rushing with 624 yards and ran for six touchdowns. Cunningham capped his season by winning Most Valuable Player honors at the Pro Bowl.

Perhaps most remarkable about Cunningham's performance last season was what he didn't do—get hurt. While other quarterbacks around the league were dropping by the wayside nearly every week, Cunningham never missed a start despite 93 rushing attempts, 57 sacks and countless hits after releasing the football.

Backup Matt Cavanaugh is a savvy veteran who could do an adequate job if called upon.

**RUNNING BACKS**—The Eagles have a pair of burly starters in Keith Byars and Anthony Toney, but both players have had durability and productivity problems.

Byars was hampered his first two seasons by foot injuries. Healthy last season, he established himself as one of the game's best pass-catching backs with 72 receptions. Byars, however, has struggled as a runner and has gained only 1,520 yards in three seasons.

Toney is a solid fullback when healthy. He can run, block and catch. But he has been bothered by nagging injuries for much of his career, and Ryan has questioned his toughness.

Third-round pick Robert Drummond (Syracuse) will get a long look.

**RECEIVERS**—Quick missed eight games last season with a fractured fibula and failed to make the Pro Bowl for the first time since 1982. But he has completely recovered and should again be one of the league's most dangerous deep threats.

Cris Carter caught 39 passes to pick up some of the slack after Quick was sidelined. He is athletic and instinctive but lacks deep speed.

Philadelphia's best receiver in 1988 was tight end Keith Jackson, who was voted the NFC Rookie of the Year after setting a team record with 81 receptions. Jackson made good on a training-camp promise by starting in the Pro Bowl.

**LINEMEN**—The Eagles' offensive line has come a long way since 1986, when an undersized, overmatched unit contributed to a league-record 104 sacks allowed.

The Eagles made two important acquisitions late in training camp last year. Ron Heller came over from Seattle and started 15 games at tackle while center Dave Rimington, acquired from Cincinnati, was a starter in every Eagles game last year.

Ron Solt, a Pro Bowler in Indianapolis, is expected to start in place of veteran Ron Baker at right guard. Acquired in a trade last October, Solt underwent surgery on both knees last December but is expected to be ready for training camp.

Mike Schud, a former No. 1 pick by the Los Angeles Rams, is penciled in as the starter at left guard. Schud was signed as an unprotected free agent.

Schud's arrival moved David Alexander, who started last year at left guard, to center. Alexander is expected to unseat Rimington, who has a history of injury problems. Matt Darwin will remain the left tackle.

## DEFENSE

**LINEMEN**—The strength of the Eagles' defense is the line, and the team's front four has the potential to be among the most fearsome in football.

Leading the way is left end White, who is regarded by many people as the best defensive lineman in football. White registered 18 sacks last year and has led the NFL in that category the last two seasons.

## AT A GLANCE

**Strengths:** Randall Cunningham and Reggie White are among the best players in the league. The Eagles are a young team with confidence and momentum after last year's division title. The special teams are solid.

**Weaknesses:** Depth. An injury to Cunningham or White would be devastating. The Eagles lack an authoritative running game. The pass defense is suspect.

**Key to success:** The Eagles must establish a running game.

**Sure sign of trouble:** If Buddy Ryan runs off the field with one second left on the clock.

**That's a fact:** The Eagles won the NFC East last year despite allowing 4,147 passing yards—an NFL record.

**The head coach says:** "We're a team that's going to scare the hell out of a lot of people."





Right end Clyde Simmons emerged as a big-play man in 1988 with eight sacks, one blocked extra point and two blocked field goals. He also had a memorable 15-yard touchdown return of a blocked Philadelphia field goal in overtime to beat the New York Giants.

The key to the line is tackle Jerome Brown, who has been hampered by minor injuries and conditioning problems his first two seasons. Brown, who underwent minor off-season surgery on his knee and elbow, has the potential to be among the most devastating inside rushers in the game.

**LINEBACKERS**—The Eagles brought in four new linebackers in the off-season and all four are expected to make the roster. But only one, former Chicago Bear Al Harris, is expected to start.

The 32-year-old Harris played defensive end his last two years in Chicago. But he was left unprotected by the Bears and was signed as a free agent by the Eagles, who project him as the starter at right outside linebacker.

The Eagles hope Byron Evans can hold the starting position at middle linebacker. Evans started there last season but gave way to Mike Reichenbach after five games because of problems calling the defensive signals. However, No. 3 pick Britt Hager (Texas) will challenge.

Left outside linebacker Seth Joyner is one of the Eagles' most underrated players. Joyner set career highs last season with 136 tackles and four interceptions.

**DEFENSIVE BACKS**—The Eagles ranked last in the league in pass defense for the second year in a row in 1988. But the Eagles did intercept 32 passes last season, the second-highest total in the league.

Eric Allen, who had five interceptions as a rookie last year, is set at the right corner. But the other three secondary positions are unsettled.

The Eagles' unique free-safety platoon of Wes Hopkins and Terry Hoage was highly productive, with a combined 13 interceptions and 177 tackles. But the situation, which was uncomfortable for both players, is not likely to continue.

Veteran left cornerback Roynell Young will be replaced. His successor will come from among three second-year players: former Eagle draft choices Izel Jenkins and Eric Everett or former Giant Sammy Lilly, who was signed as an unprotected free agent. The two non-starters will provide depth.

Starting strong safety Andre Waters will be challenged by Todd Bell, a former Pro Bowler who will be moved back to his natural position after an unsuccessful stay at linebacker.

## SPECIAL TEAMS

Placekicker Luis Zendejas was a free-agent find for the Eagles, going 19 for 24 on field-goal attempts and 30 for 31 on extra points after signing with the team in the fifth week of the season.

Punter John Tetschik is one of the team's top athletes. He averaged 40.4 yards per kick and led the league with 28 punts inside the 20-yard line. ■

# EAGLES DATA

## 1989 ROSTER

QUARTERBACKS	Ht./Wt.	NFL Exp.	College	1988 Games GP/GS
Cavanaugh, Matt	6-2/210	12	Pittsburgh	5/0
Cunningham, Randall	6-4/203	5	Nevada-Las Vegas	16/16
McPherson, Don	6-1/193	1	Syracuse	0/0
<b>RUNNING BACKS</b>				
Abercrombie, Walter	6-0/210	8	Baylor	5/0
Byars, Keith	6-1/238	4	Ohio State	16/16
Drummond, Robert	6-1/205	D3a	Syracuse	—
Higgs, Mark	5-7/200	2	Kentucky	*5/0
Sherman, Heath	6-0/190	D6	Texas A&I	—
Toney, Anthony (FB)	6-0/227	4	Texas A&M	15/13
<b>RECEIVERS</b>				
Bailey, Eric (TE)	6-5/245	2	Kansas State	IR
Bowman, Kevin	6-3/203	2	San Jose State	0/0
Carter, Chris	6-3/198	3	Ohio State	16/16
Garrity, Gregg	5-10/175	7	Penn State	9/4
Holloway, Derek	5-8/162	3	Arkansas	0/0
Jackson, Keith (TE)	6-2/250	2	Oklahoma	16/15
Johnson, Ron	6-3/190	5	Long Beach State	10/4
Little, David (TE)	6-2/230	6	Middle Tennessee St.	10/0
Quick, Mike	6-2/195	8	North Carolina State	8/8
Williams, Henry	5-6/180	CFL	East Carolina	*17
<b>OFFENSIVE LINEMEN</b>				
Alexander, David	6-3/282	3	Tulsa	16/12
Baker, Ron (G)	6-4/275	12	Oklahoma State	9/7
Darwin, Matt (T)	6-4/275	4	Texas A&M	16/16
Heller, Ron (T)	6-6/280	6	Penn State	15/15
Patchan, Matt (T)	6-4/270	1	Miami (Fla.)	1R
Reeves, Ken	6-5/270	5	Texas A&M	15/1
Rimington, Dave (C)	6-3/285	7	Nebraska	16/16
Schad, Mike (G)	6-5/290	2	Queens (Can.)	*6/0
Singletary, Reggie	6-3/285	4	North Carolina State	16/9
Solt, Ron (G)	6-3/288	5	Maryland	*2/0
Tamburello, Ben	6-3/278	2	Auburn	16/4
<b>DEFENSIVE LINEMEN</b>				
Brown, Jerome (T)	6-2/295	3	Miami (Fla.)	16/15
Evans, Donald (E)	6-2/258	2	Winston-Salem (N.C.)	St. 5/0
Golic, Mike (T)	6-5/275	4	Notre Dame	12/1
Kaufusi, Steve (E)	6-4/260	1	Brigham Young	1R
Klingel, John (E)	6-3/270	3	Eastern Kentucky	16/0
Pitts, Mike (T)	6-5/277	7	Alabama	16/16
Schuster, Joe (T)	6-4/270	1	Iowa	1R
Simmons, Clyde (E)	6-6/275	4	Western Carolina	16/16
White, Reggie (E)	6-5/285	5	Tennessee	16/16
<b>LINEBACKERS</b>				
Allert, Ty	6-2/238	4	Texas	10/0
Bell, Todd	6-1/215	8	Ohio State	16/16
Butcher, Paul	6-0/230	4	Wayne State (Mich.)	*16/0
Evans, Byron	6-2/235	3	Arizona	16/5
Hager, Britt	6-1/222	D3b	Texas	—
Harris, Al	6-5/265	10	Arizona State	*16/14
Jiles, Dwayne	6-4/245	5	Texas Tech	16/0
Joyner, Seth	6-2/248	4	Texas-El Paso	16/16
Moten, Ron	6-1/237	1	Florida	1R
Reichenbach, Mike	6-2/235	6	East Stroudsburg St.	16/11
Small, Jessie	6-3/239	D2	Eastern Kentucky	—
<b>DEFENSIVE BACKS</b>				
Allen, Eric (CB)	5-10/188	2	Arizona State	16/16
Everett, Eric (CB)	5-10/170	2	Texas Tech	16/1
Frizzell, William (S)	6-3/206	6	No. Carolina Central	16/0
Hoage, Terry (S)	6-3/201	6	Georgia	16/0
Hopkins, Wes (S)	6-1/215	6	Southern Methodist	16/16
Jenkins, Izel (CB)	5-10/191	2	North Carolina State	16/0
Lilly, Sammy (CB)	5-9/178	1	Georgia Tech	*1R
Waters, Andre (S)	5-11/199	6	Cheyney (Pa.)	16/16
<b>SPECIALISTS</b>				
Salamone, Tom (P)		R	Hofstra	—
Tetschik, John (P)	6-2/210	4	Texas	16/0
Zendejas, Luis (K)	5-9/170	3	Arizona State	†14/0

## OTHER FREE AGENTS IN CAMP

David Bailey, DE; Paul Beradelli, G; Marvin Cephus, WR; Alan Dial, S; Jim Donaway, G; Steve Gabbard, OT; Allen Gardenhire, WR; Tom Gerhart, S; Melvin Gilliam, DB; Bill Hess, DB/WR; Brian Hunsaker, DT; Tyrone Jones, DB; James Loving, WR; Mitch Nash, RB; Al Niemele, QB; Todd Powers, RB; Steve Rankin, DT; Sautte Sapoula, DE; Bob Williams, TE.

\*Not with Philadelphia in 1988.

†Includes totals with both Philadelphia and another NFL team in 1988.

IR—Injured reserve.

Key to abbreviations on page 160.

## COACHES

Head coach—Buddy Ryan.

Assistant coaches—

Dave Atkins (offensive backfield).

Tom Bettis (defensive backs).

Jeff Fisher (defensive coordinator/linebackers).

Dale Haupt (defensive line).

Ronnie Jones (strength and conditioning).

Dan Neal (assistant offensive line).

Ted Plumb (assistant head coach/offense).

Al Roberts (special teams).

Doug Scovil (quarterbacks).

Bill Walsh (offensive line).

## RECORDS/RANKINGS

1988 regular-season record: 10-6 (1st in NFC East); 6-2 in division; 8-4 in conference; 5-3 at home; 5-3 on road.

1988 playoff record: Lost to Chicago, 20-12, in NFC semifinals.

1988 team rankings: total offense, 7th in NFC/10th in NFL; total defense, 14th/27th; rushing offense, 8th/17th; rushing defense, 5th/6th; passing offense, 6th/8th; passing defense, 14th/28th; scoring offense, 3rd/5th; scoring defense, 10th/14th; takeaways, 2nd/2nd; giveaways, 11st/11st; turnover differential, 2nd/2nd; sacks, 7th/7th; sacks allowed, 12th/26th.

Ryan's regular-season record: 22-24-1 in 3 seasons with Eagles.

Ryan's postseason record: 0-1 in playoff games with Eagles.

Team record last five years: 35-42-2 (.456, ranks T16th in league in that span).

## 1989 SCHEDULE

Sept. 10	—at Seattle
Sept. 17	—at Washington
Sept. 24	—San Francisco
Oct. 2	—at Chicago (Mon.)
Oct. 8	—New York Giants
Oct. 15	—at Phoenix
Oct. 22	—Los Angeles Raiders
Oct. 29	—at Denver
Nov. 5	—at San Diego
Nov. 12	—Washington
Nov. 19	—Minnesota
Nov. 23	—at Dallas (Thanksgiving)
Dec. 3	—at New York Giants
Dec. 10	—Dallas
Dec. 18	—at New Orleans (Mon.)
Dec. 24	—Phoenix

## 1988 RESULTS

Sept. 4	—at Tampa Bay	41-14
Sept. 11	—Cincinnati	24-28
Sept. 18	—at Washington	10-17
Sept. 25	—at Minnesota	21-23
Oct. 2	—Houston	32-23
Oct. 10	—N.Y. Giants	24-13
Oct. 16	—at Cleveland	3-19
Oct. 23	—Dallas	24-23
Oct. 30	—Atlanta	24-27
Nov. 6	—L.A. Rams	30-24
Nov. 13	—at Pittsburgh	27-26
Nov. 20	—at N.Y. Giants (OT)	23-17
Nov. 27	—Phoenix	31-21
Dec. 4	—Washington	19-20
Dec. 10	—at Phoenix	23-17
Dec. 18	—at Dallas	23-7

## 1988 LEADERS

Scoring (kicking): Luis Zendejas, 87 pts. (30/31 PATs, 19/24 FGs; 95 pts., 35/36 PATs, 20/27 FGs with Cowboys and Eagles).

Scoring (touchdowns): Keith Byars, 60 pts. (6 rushing, 4 receiving).

Passing: Randall Cunningham, 3,808 yds. (560 att., 301 comp., 53.8%, 24 TDs, 16 int.).

Rushing: Randall Cunningham, 624 yds. (6.7 avg., 6 TDs).

Receptions: Keith Jackson, 81 (86.9 yds., 10.7 avg., 6 TDs).

Interceptions: Terry Hoage, 8 (116 yds., 0 TDs).

Tackles: Andre Waters, 154 (107 solo, 47 assisted).

Sacks: Reggie White, 18 (116 yds.).

Punting: John Tetschik, 40.4 avg. (98 punts, 3,958 yds., 3 blocked).

Punt returns: Mark Konecny, 7.1 avg. (33 att., 233 yds., 0 TDs).

Kickoff returns: Shawn Beals, 18.4 avg. (34 att., 625 yds., 0 TDs).



# Cards think they might make opponents blink

By LLOYD HERBERG  
Arizona Republic

**A**fter a busy spring that included 11 free-agent signings and what many observers felt was a solid draft, Phoenix Cardinals General Manager Larry Wilson says the team now can look eyeball to eyeball with their NFC East opponents.

"Maybe this time they'll blink," he said.

Last year's fledgling flock in Phoenix soared to the top of the division with a 7-4 record before losing five straight games to finish at 7-9. The defeats started going up when quarterback Neil Lomax (knee injury) went down.

Now it's Lomax's hip, the one with degenerative arthritis, that has the Cardinals worried. So worried, in fact, that they signed free-agent quarterback Gary Hogeboom to a \$3.27 million contract over four years.

But Lomax's health isn't the only dilemma facing this franchise. Entering only their second season in the Valley of the Sun, the Cardinals have a severe popularity problem. The Cardinals have lost more than 10,000 season-ticket holders from their inaugural season and, unless they can reverse their fortunes on the field, the honeymoon may be over.

## COACHING

Gene Stallings is in the last year of a four-year contract and on the hot seat. This spring, for the first time, he was allowed input during the college draft. Liked and respected by his players, Stallings runs a Tom Landry-type camp, detailed down to the minute, with a Bear Bryant fire and brimstone.

And he's not afraid to delegate authority to his assistants. On a team with many question marks, coaching is not one of



*Since being shifted from line-backer to left end, Freddie Joe Nunn has become one of the league's premier pass rushers.*

them.

## OFFENSE

**QUARTERBACKS**—Lomax, when healthy, is among the league's top signal-callers. He is criticized for holding the ball too long on occasion and not throwing it away enough, but he can read defenses well and find alternate receivers.

Hogeboom is an expensive insurance policy if Lomax is lost. He succeeds Cliff Stoudt, who was released in the off-season and signed by Miami. Hogeboom was coached by offensive coordinator Jim Shofner in Dallas and has picked up the Cards' system quickly. He is physically fit, including a questionable right shoulder that forced him to miss playing time each of the last three seasons with the Indianapolis Colts.

**RUNNING BACKS**—Stump Mitchell is 30 and is coming off major shoulder surgery. He is the Cards' career combined yardage leader and still effective, although no longer an outside threat. The coaching staff is hoping either Tony Jordan, who rushed for just 160 yards in nine games as a rookie in 1988, or Tony Jeffery, who rushed for just eight yards on three carries in a disastrous first year, can pick up some of the slack.

Fullback Earl Ferrell had the best season of his seven-year career in 1988 by rushing for 924 yards and catching 38 passes for 315 more. But he suffered a drug-abuse relapse last season and will be

closely watched. Phoenix signed free-agent fullback Lydell Carr, who was a disappointment as a rookie for New Orleans last season, but the Cardinals think he can replace Ferrell if the need arises.

Backup fullback Ron Wolfley, a Pro Bowl special-teams performer, is used in blocking situations and to rest Ferrell.

**RECEIVERS**—Although starters J.T. Smith (33 years old) and Roy Green (32) are reaching advanced age, neither showed signs of decline last season. Smith was fifth in the league with 83 catches for 986 yards and went to the Pro Bowl for the first time in eight years. Green caught 68 passes for 1,097 yards, the eighth-best yardage total in the NFL.

Ernie Jones averaged 21.6 yards on 23 receptions as a rookie and is the No. 1 backup. Robert Awalt is the starting tight end and has caught 81 passes the last two seasons despite playing most of last year with a foot injury. Stallings is unhappy with his blocking, however, and that's why Auburn's Walter Reeves was grabbed in the second round of the draft. Reeves is expected to provide the short-yardage blocking that Stallings wants.

**LINEMEN**—Left tackle Luis Sharpe anchors the line and was selected to his second straight Pro Bowl last season. He'll likely line up alongside a new left guard, however, because the coaches expect rookie Joe Wolf, a first-round draft choice from Boston College, to replace Todd Peat. Center Derek Kennard had a great first half in 1988, but his production diminished in the second half as he was flagged for numerous holding calls.

Starting right guard Lance Smith will be challenged by Mike Zandofsky, a third-round pick from Washington. Right tackle Tootie Robbins is recovering from ankle surgery after one of the best seasons of his seven-year career. Joe Bostic's versatility should help him win a roster spot if he rebounds from major knee surgery.

## DEFENSE

**LINEMEN**—Since being shifted from linebacker to left end, Freddie Joe Nunn has become one of the league's premier pass rushers. His 14 sacks last season ranked fourth in the league. Left tackle Bob Clasby is steady but not spectacular. He and Nunn play well side by side.

The line's biggest question mark is right end David Galloway, who hasn't played a full season since 1986. Without him, other teams double-team Nunn and take their chances with Galloway's replacement. That was Rod Saddler for the first half last season, although the Cardinals would rather keep him at tackle.

Phoenix went into the draft looking to upgrade the line, but didn't draft a lineman until taking Jim Wahler of UCLA in the fourth round. He probably will play tackle in the Cards' 4-3 defense. Phoenix hopes David Edeen, a fifth-round pick from Wyoming, can develop into a situational-type pass rusher.

**LINEBACKERS**—At least two new start-

## AT A GLANCE

**Strengths:** The Cardinals have the NFL's fourth-best offense and it should be even more productive this season with the addition of linemen Joe Wolf and Mike Zandofsky. If it can get some outside speed from either Tony Jordan or Tony Jeffery, this offense could be the league's best.

**Weaknesses:** The defense doesn't get enough pressure from its down linemen and the cornerbacks are shaky. There isn't much depth in key areas—wide receiver, running back, safety—and age is a concern. The Cardinals continue to suffer from a mediocre kicking game, and the special teams must improve significantly.

**Key to success:** Lomax must be healthy and in the lineup.

**Sure sign of trouble:** If Hill is the latest in a long line of first-round linebacking busts.

**That's a fact:** The Cardinals have not hosted a playoff game since 1948.

**The head coach says:** "Establishing dominance at the line of scrimmage, both ways, is awfully important in winning championships. That's what we're trying to accomplish."





ers are expected to emerge from training camp. Longtime starter E.J. Junior was left unprotected and signed with Miami, while middle linebacker Niko Noga is being switched to defensive end. The third starter, Anthony Bell, has been a disappointment and will have to fight to keep his starting job.

The Cardinals chose Louisiana State's Eric Hill with the 10th pick in the draft to challenge Bell, marking the fourth time in five years they have used their No. 1 choice to take a linebacker. Stallings loves the way Hill intimidates people, stuffs the run and covers receivers. Ken Harvey, last year's No. 1 pick, is expected to replace Junior. Harvey often was used as a defensive end in passing situations, with Galloway or Saddler at tackle. He showed flashes of dominance and was improving by the end of his rookie season.

Noga's job likely will go to either Ricky Hunley, a disappointment after coming to Phoenix in a trade with Denver, or Reggie McKenzie, an unconditional free agent formerly with the Los Angeles Raiders.

**DEFENSIVE BACKS**—Cornerback Carl Carter gave up nine touchdowns last season after allowing eight in 1987, and the Cardinals are desperate to find someone better. But they waited until the sixth and seventh rounds to draft cornerbacks: Jay Taylor of San Jose State and Rickey Royal of Sam Houston State, respectively. A trade is possible.

At the other corner, Cedric Mack rebounded after being benched early last season and should keep his job, in large part because the backups last season, Roland Mitchell, Reggie Phillips and Michael Brim, didn't produce.

Phoenix traded starting strong safety Leonard Smith to Buffalo early last season to get second-year player Tim McDonald in the lineup. He appears on the verge of stardom and will call defensive signals now that Junior is gone. The Cardinals hope that free safety Lonnie Young is fully recovered after undergoing elbow surgery late last year. The depth behind Young is perilously thin. Former backup Travis Curtis was claimed by Washington off waivers and his replacement, Lester Lyles, was left unprotected and signed with San Diego.

## SPECIAL TEAMS

This was a disaster area last season. Placekicker Al Del Greco made just 12 of 21 field-goal attempts and will be challenged by free-agent acquisition Teddy Garcia, left unprotected by New England, and Kendall Trainor, a ninth-round pick from Arkansas. Punter Greg Horne was left unprotected and signed with Washington. His replacement will be either veteran Rich Camarillo, rookie Chris Becker (Texas Christian) or backup quarterback Tom Tupa.

With the exception of Wolfley, the Cards' kick-return coverage was horrible last year. The coaching staff hopes that Garth Jax and Randy Kirk, players of the year on special teams for Dallas and San Diego, respectively, last season, can help fill this major hole. ■

# CARDINALS DATA

## 1989 ROSTER

QUARTERBACKS	Ht./Wt.	NFL Exp.	College	1988 Games GP/GS
Hogeboom, Gary	6-4/208	10	Central Michigan	0/9/1
Lomax, Neil	6-3/215	9	Portland State	14/14
Tupa, Tom	6-4/220	2	Ohio State	2/0
RUNNING BACKS	Ht./Wt.	NFL Exp.	College	1988 Games GP/GS
Burch, John	5-10/200	D8	Tennessee-Martin	—
Carr, Lydell (FB)	6-1/226	1	Oklahoma	0/1R
Clark, Jessie (FB)	6-0/233	7	Arkansas	19/0
Ferrell, Earl (FB)	6-0/240	8	East Tennessee State	16/16
Jeffery, Tony	5-11/208	2	Texas Christian	3/0
Jordan, Tony	6-2/220	2	Kansas State	9/2
Marshall, Warren	6-0/216	2	James Madison	0/0/0
Mimbs, Robert	5-10/197	1	Kansas	1R
Mitchell, Stump	5-9/188	9	The Citadel	14/14
Sikahema, Vai (KR)	5-9/191	4	Brigham Young	12/0
Wolfley, Ron (FB)	6-0/222	5	West Virginia	16/0
RECEIVERS	Ht./Wt.	NFL Exp.	College	1988 Games GP/GS
Awalt, Robert (TE)	6-5/248	3	San Diego State	16/15
Bellini, Mark	5-11/185	3	Brigham Young	0/15/0
Green, Roy	6-0/195	11	Henderson (Ark.) St.	16/16
Holmes, Don	5-10/180	4	Mesa (Colo.)	16/0
Jones, Ernie	5-11/186	2	Indiana	16/0
Novacek, Jay (TE)	6-4/235	5	Wyoming	16/1
Reeves, Walter (TE)	6-3/251	D2	Auburn	—
Schillinger, Andy	5-11/179	2	Miami (O.)	3/0
Smith, J. T.	6-2/185	12	North Texas	16/16
Walczak, Mark (TE)	6-6/246	3	Arizona	16/0
OFFENSIVE LINEMEN	Ht./Wt.	NFL Exp.	College	1988 Games GP/GS
Bostic, Joe (G)	6-3/268	11	Clemson	10/1
Dill, Scott (G)	6-5/272	2	Memphis State	13/0
Kaushi, Kani (C)	6-2/273	7	Hawaii	0/16/0
Kennard, Derek	6-3/285	4	Nevada-Reno	16/16
MacDonald, Mark	6-4/265	5	Boston College	16/0
Nelson, Todd	6-5/289	D12	Wisconsin	—
Peat, Todd (G)	6-2/294	3	Northern Illinois	15/15
Robbins, Tootie (T)	6-5/302	8	East Carolina	15/15
Sharpe, Luis (T)	6-4/260	8	UCLA	16/16
Smith, Lance	6-2/262	5	Louisiana State	16/16
Wolf, Joe (G)	6-5/279	D1b	Boston College	—
Zandofsky, Mike (G)	6-2/297	D3	Washington	—
DEFENSIVE LINEMEN	Ht./Wt.	NFL Exp.	College	1988 Games GP/GS
Alvord, Steve (T)	6-4/272	3	Washington	15/10
Clasby, Bob (T)	6-5/260	4	Notre Dame	16/16
Cooks, Rayford (T)	6-2/225	2	North Texas	0/0/0
Edeen, David (E)	6-3/254	D5b	Wyoming	—
Galloway, David (E)	6-3/279	8	Florida	8/6
Hadd, Gary (T)	6-4/270	2	Minnesota	0/5/0
Hunter, Jeff (E)	6-4/263	D11	Albany (Ga.) State	—
McNanie, Sean (E)	6-5/270	7	San Diego State	12/1
Noga, Niko (E)	6-1/235	6	Hawaii	16/16
Nunn, Freddie Joe (E)	6-4/255	5	Mississippi	16/16
Saddler, Rod (E)	6-5/276	3	Texas A&M	16/15
Spachman, Chris (E)	6-5/275	2	Nebraska	1R
Wahler, Jim	6-3/259	D4	UCLA	—
LINEBACKERS	Ht./Wt.	NFL Exp.	College	1988 Games GP/GS
Bell, Anthony	6-3/231	4	Michigan State	16/16
Harvey, Ken	6-2/225	2	California	16/0
Hill, Eric	6-1/248	D1a	Louisiana State	—
Hunley, Ricky	6-2/250	6	Arizona	16/0
Jarostchuk, Ilia	6-3/231	3	New Hampshire	0/6/0
Jax, Garth	6-2/222	4	Florida State	0/16/2
Jones, Tyrone	6-0/220	2	Southern (La.)	1/0
Kirk, Randy	6-2/227	3	San Diego State	0/16/0
McKenzie, Reggie	6-1/235	5	Tennessee	0/16/3
Tardits, Richard	6-1/218	D5a	Georgia	—
DEFENSIVE BACKS	Ht./Wt.	NFL Exp.	College	1988 Games GP/GS
Adams, Michael (CB)	5-10/195	3	Arkansas State	0/5/0
Brim, Michael (CB)	6-0/186	2	Virginia Union	4/0
Carter, Carl (CB)	5-11/180	4	Texas Tech	16/16
Mack, Cedric (CB)	6-0/194	7	Baylor	16/14
McDonald, Tim	6-2/207	3	Southern California	16/15
Mitchell, Roland (CB)	5-11/180	3	Texas Tech	14/0
Phillips, Reggie (CB)	5-10/175	5	Southern Methodist	16/0
Royal, Rickey (CB)	5-9/187	D7	Sam Houston State	—
Taylor, Jay (CB)	5-9/174	D6	San Jose State	—
Young, Lonnie (S)	6-1/182	5	Michigan State	12/12
Zordich, Michael (S)	5-11/207	3	Penn State	0/16/0
SPECIALISTS	Ht./Wt.	NFL Exp.	College	1988 Games GP/GS
Becker, Chris (P)	6-1/192	D10	Texas Christian	—
Brown, Kevin (K)	6-0/183	1	West Texas State	0/0/0
Camarillo, Rich (P)	5-11/185	9	Washington	0/9/0
Del Greco, Al (K)	5-10/191	6	Auburn	16/0
Garcia, Teddy (K)	5-10/190	2	NE Louisiana	0/16/0
Prindle, Michael (K)	5-9/163	2	Western Michigan	0/0/0
Trainor, Kendall (K)	6-1/202	D9	Arkansas	—
Treadwell, David (K)	6-1/165	1	Clemson	0/0

## OTHER FREE AGENTS IN CAMP

Kevin Dent, S; Steve Gregory, S; Chris Harkness, WR; Mike Horton, QB; Darren Jones, CB; Tim Jordan, TE; Ryan Knight, RB; Andre Langley, WR; Kevin Lewis, CB; Jim Michalcik, G; Mark Prons, OT; Harvey Reed, RB; Troy Washington, S.

\*Not with Phoenix in 1988.

†Includes totals with both Phoenix and another NFL team in 1988.

IR—Injured reserve.

Key to abbreviations on page 160.

## COACHES

**Head coach**—Gene Stallings.

**Assistant coaches**—

Marv Braden (special teams).  
LeBaron Caruthers (strength and conditioning).

Jim Johnson (defensive line).

Hank Kuhlmann (running backs).

Leon McLaughlin (special assistant/quality control).

Mal Moore (receivers).

Joe Pascale (linebackers).

Jim Shofner (offensive coordinator).

Mike Solari (offensive line).

Dennis Thurman (defensive backs).

## RECORDS/RANKINGS

**1988 regular-season record:** 7-9 (T3rd in NFC East); 3-5 in division; 6-6 in conference; 4-4 at home; 3-5 on road.

**1988 playoff record:** None.

**1988 team rankings:** total offense, 3rd in NFC/4th in NFL; total defense, 9th/14th; rushing offense, 4th/13th; rushing defense, 11th/16th; passing offense, 4th/5th; passing defense, 5th/12th; scoring offense, 7th/11th; scoring defense, 14th/27th; takeaways, 12th/T24th; giveaways, 9th/T19th; turnover differential, 10th/T22nd; sacks, 9th/14th; sacks allowed, T13th/T27th.

**Stallings' regular-season record:** 18-28-1 in 3 seasons with Cardinals.

**Stallings' postseason record:** None.

**Team record last five years:** 32-46-1 (.411), ranks T20th in league in that span.

## 1989 SCHEDULE

Sept. 10	at Detroit
Sept. 17	at Seattle
Sept. 24	at New York Giants
Oct. 1	San Diego
Oct. 8	at Washington
Oct. 15	Philadelphia
Oct. 22	Atlanta
Oct. 29	at Dallas
Nov. 5	New York Giants
Nov. 12	Dallas
Nov. 19	at Los Angeles Rams
Nov. 26	Tampa Bay
Dec. 3	Washington
Dec. 10	at Los Angeles Raiders
Dec. 16	Denver (Sat.)
Dec. 24	at Philadelphia

## 1988 RESULTS

Sept. 4	at Cincinnati	14-21
Sept. 12	Dallas	14-17
Sept. 18	at Tampa Bay	30-24
Sept. 25	Washington	30-21
Oct. 2	at L.A. Rams	41-27
Oct. 9	Pittsburgh	31-14
Oct. 16	at Washington	17-33
Oct. 23	Cleveland	21-29
Oct. 30	at Dallas	16-10
Nov. 6	San Francisco	24-23
Nov. 13	N.Y. Giants	24-17
Nov. 20	at Houston	20-38
Nov. 27	at Philadelphia	21-31
Dec. 4	at N.Y. Giants	7-44
Dec. 10	Philadelphia	17-23
Dec. 18	Green Bay	17-26

## 1988 LEADERS

**Scoring (kicking):** Al Del Greco, 78 pts. (42/44 PATs, 12/21 FGs).

**Scoring (touchdowns):** Earl Ferrell, 54 pts. (7 rushing, 2 receiving).

**Passing:** Neil Lomax, 3,395 yds. (443 att., 255 comp., 57.6%, 20 TDs, 11 int.).

**Rushing:** Earl Ferrell, 924 yds. (4.6 avg., 7 TDs).

**Receptions:** J.T. Smith, 83 (986 yds., 11.9 avg., 5 TDs).

**Interceptions:** Cedric Mack, 3 (33 yds., 0 TDs); Carl Carter, 3 (0 yds., 0 TDs).

**Tackles:** Tim McDonald, 115 (101 solo, 14 assisted).

**Sacks:** Freddie Joe Nunn, 14 (101 yds.).

**Punting:** Greg Horne, 40.9 avg. (79 punts, 3,228 yds., 1 blocked).

**Punt returns:** Vai Sikahema, 10.3 avg. (33 att., 341 yds., 0 TDs).

**Kickoff returns:** Vai Sikahema, 20.7 avg. (23 att., 475 yds., 0 TDs).



# Revamped Redskins ready to roll behind Riggs

By TOM FRIEND  
Washington Post

**S**pray-painted black in the Redskin Park weight room are the numbers "7-9." That was the Washington Redskins' record last season as the team fell from the heights of a Super Bowl championship to the depths of a non-play-off year.

"No, 7-9, those are our hours," strength coach Dan Riley said with a wink of his eye. Seriously, the first losing season in the Joe Gibbs era has left a frothing disposition here. The coaches are angry, the players are angry and, for the sake of all concerned, there had better not be a repeat this year.

The Redskins started their preparations for 1989 with two draft-day trades. First, they dealt a second-round pick this year and a first-rounder next year to Atlanta for running back Gerald Riggs. This was widely considered a steep price to pay for a 28-year-old workhorse whose body may be older than its chronological age, but the Redskins felt they had to make the deal.

On the same day, former General Manager Bobby Beathard landed Cleveland running back Earnest Byner, who will be reprogrammed as an H-back in the Washington system. He caught 59 passes for the Browns last season and should catch at least that many this year.

"Teams will have to work by candlelight to stop us," quarterback Doug Williams said.

## COACHING

Gibbs is arguably the best coach in the National Football League and the hardest worker among the brethren. He sleeps four nights a week at Redskin Park but otherwise takes his work home. He spent most of last season in pain because of an infected cyst on his lower back, and getting beat nine times made it hurt even more. By season's end, Gibbs clearly was



**Strong safety Alvin Walton is a punishing hitter who led the team in tackles a year ago.**

disenchanted with his personnel and asked Beathard for a square-jawed full-back who could run Washington's famed "40-gut" play 20 times a game. And when Beathard came through on draft day, Gibbs was relieved.

However, Beathard didn't agree with Gibbs' insistence and resigned in May.

Another concern for Gibbs was the special teams, so much so that he begged old friend Wayne Sevier to leave a similar job in San Diego to join him in Washington. Gibbs then asked last year's co-coaches of the special teams—Paul Lanham and Chuck Banker—to find other employment. (Lanham ended up with Cleveland; Banker was reassigned to the scouting department.)

## OFFENSE

**QUARTERBACKS**—Williams has reached cult-figure status in the nation's capital ever since winning the Most Valuable Player award in Super Bowl XXII. But that was two years ago. Last season, with no threat of a running attack, he was harried on most passing attempts, threw 12 interceptions and fumbled six times. He completed 56.1 percent of his passes, but just 15 for touchdowns.

Williams' left knee has been operated on five times (four arthroscopic). At age 34, his health is a concern.

The coaches believe they have a solid backup in fourth-year player Mark Rypien, who was among the NFL passing leaders early last season after assuming the starting role for four games after Williams was sidelined with an appendectomy.

**RUNNING BACKS**—A succession of players—George Rogers, Timmy Smith, Kel-

vin Bryant and Jamie Morris—have been given the opportunity to fill the gaping hole in the Redskins' backfield left by the 1985 retirement of John Riggins. All have failed. And that's why Riggs will open the 1989 season in a Washington uniform.

Riggs lived for seven years in the long shadow cast by William Andrews in Atlanta and was criticized last season for sitting out seven games with a sprained knee. The Falcons thought he could have bounced back sooner. Still, in nine games, he rushed for 488 yards and has 6,631 rushing yards in his career.

Washington's other newcomer, Byner, is likely to play more than any Redskins running back. With his receiving and blocking skills, Byner is the only back suited for all three downs.

Bryant, who missed six games last year because of a bum knee, will remain as a third-down/long-yardage threat. He rushed for 498 yards and caught 42 passes for 447 yards in '88 but is so brittle that Gibbs has given up on using him on every down.

**RECEIVERS**—This is probably the Redskins' strongest position. Ricky Sanders and Art Monk each caught more than 70 passes last season, while Gary Clark hauled in 59.

Monk, after an off-year in '87, re-emerged as a valuable threat, especially on crucial downs. On short-yardage third downs, he is the receiver Williams and Rypien look to first.

The tight ends on this team are getting old. Don Warren is entering his 11th season and Mike Tice, an unrestricted free agent formerly with Seattle, is entering his 10th.

**LINEMEN**—With the arrival of Riggs, run blocking is back in vogue in Washington, with starting tackles Jim Lachey and Joe Jacoby, guards Russ Grimm and Mark May and center Jeff Bostic forming one of the best run-blocking units in the league.

Grimm is back in the starting lineup after the Redskins left him unprotected in the free-agency period last spring. He reportedly turned down an extra \$100,000 from the Kansas City Chiefs to stay in Washington. Then, after the Riggs trade, Bugel elevated him to first string because he's a better run blocker than former starter Raleigh McKenzie.

But McKenzie is perhaps the team's best pass blocker. He also can play center if Bostic falters.

## DEFENSE

**LINEMEN**—Ends Charles Mann and Dexter Manley annually battle for the team lead in sacks, a duel won last season by Manley (9-5½). Mann had a hip-pointer that seemingly took all season to heal, but he still made his second straight Pro Bowl trip on his reputation as a pass rusher. Manley was suspended for 30 days during the preseason for violating the league's substance-abuse policy, but he voluntarily visited the Hazelden Foundation this win-

## AT A GLANCE

**Strengths:** Coach Joe Gibbs, running backs Gerald Riggs and Earnest Byner, wide receivers Art Monk, Gary Clark and Ricky Sanders, ends Dexter Manley and Charles Mann and linebacker Wilber Marshall.

**Weaknesses:** Teams ran up the middle of the defense last year, and the secondary needs to bounce back from an injury-marred season. The special teams are suspect.

**Key to success:** If Gerald Riggs can become the new John Riggins.

**Sure sign of trouble:** If starting cornerbacks Darrell Green and Brian Davis get hurt.

**That's a fact:** The Redskins are 3-5 in season openers under Gibbs, and they start this year on a Monday night against the Giants.

**The head coach says:** "I'd have to say that this draft day, as far as needs go, was the best. I'm really excited about what we did."





ter and seems to have put his problems behind him.

The retirement of Dave Butz after 16 seasons will probably move fifth-year man Dean Hamel into a starting position, but the other tackle spot figures to be manned by Darryl Grant, who had 109 tackles and four sacks in 16 starts a year ago.

**LINEBACKERS**—The triumvirate of Monte Coleman, Neal Olkewicz and Mel Kaufman has been around since Gibbs' arrival in 1981. They are a solid trio, but the Redskins need other linebackers to step forward and make big contributions.

One obvious player to do that is Wilber Marshall, who was signed to a five-year, \$6 million free-agent contract before last season and proceeded to get just four sacks in 16 starts at right outside linebacker. He rarely blitzed, and his unfamiliarity with the defense could have been one of the reasons.

In the middle, Olkewicz is coming off a stellar season (153 tackles). Heading into his 11th season, he is in an annual battle to keep his job, and second-year man Greg Manusky is this year's top contender.

**DEFENSIVE BACKS**—There will be some changes here. Barry Wilburn, a cornerback the last five seasons, is moving to free safety to challenge two-year starter Todd Bowles. Bowles was criticized last season for sloppy tackling and dropping interceptions and appears destined for a backup role.

The strong safety position belongs to 16-game starter Alvin Walton, a punishing hitter who led the team with 189 tackles a year ago.

Despite being the subject of many off-season trade rumors, ex-Pro Bowler Darrell Green will be one of the starting cornerbacks. He was slowed late last season by a sore knee but remains one of the league's fastest players (4.19 seconds in the 40-yard dash). Brian Davis was an adequate part-time starter who now should start opposite Green if he can avoid persistent muscle pulls. He didn't surrender a touchdown pass all season.

## SPECIAL TEAMS

Placekicker Chip Lohmiller, who had a knack for kicking balls off the uprights last season, should benefit greatly from a year's experience. He banged a 29-yard attempt off the post in the Redskins' final game last season at Cincinnati, costing himself a hefty bonus. The rookie had 97 points before the attempt and would have gotten \$17,500 had he finished the season with 100.

Lohmiller probably will have a new holder. Greg Coleman, who did double duty as a punter and holder, won't be back after compiling a net average of 29.2 yards on 39 punts in 1988. Washington signed two free-agent punters, Greg Horne (Phoenix) and Rick Tuten (San Diego), and Tom Barnhardt is coming back from a serious quadriceps injury.

Meanwhile, Washington finished 11th in the NFC in both punt and kickoff returns last year. There's room for a lot of improvement in this department. ■

# REDSKINS DATA

## 1989 ROSTER

QUARTERBACKS	HI./WT.	NFL Exp.	College	1988 Games GP/GS
Graham, Jeff	6-4/205	D4	Long Beach State	—
Humphries, Stan	6-2/223	1	Northeast Louisiana	IR
Rypien, Mark	6-4/234	3	Washington State	9/6
Williams, Doug	6-4/220	9	Grambling State	11/10
RUNNING BACKS	HI./WT.	NFL Exp.	College	1988 Games GP/GS
Branch, Reggie	5-11/235	5	East Carolina	7/0
Bryant, Kelvin	6-2/195	4	North Carolina	10/4
Byner, Earnest	5-10/215	6	East Carolina	16/16
McEwen, Craig (H-B)	6-1/220	3	Utah	14/8
McGill, Darryl	5-10/210	1	Wake Forest	IR
Mickles, Joe	5-10/210	D12b	Mississippi	—
Morris, Jamie	5-7/188	2	Michigan	16/4
Reaves, Willard	5-11/200	1	Northern Arizona	IR
Riggs, Gerald	6-1/232	8	Arizona State	9/9
Whisenhunt, Ken (H-B)	6-3/240	5	Georgia Tech	16/15
RECEIVERS	HI./WT.	NFL Exp.	College	1988 Games GP/GS
Beals, Shawn	5-10/178	2	Idaho State	13/0
Chippis, Dale	6-0/186	1	Towson State	IR
Clark, Gary	5-9/173	5	James Madison	16/13
Darrington, Charlie (TE)	6-3/228	D9	Kentucky	—
Hobbs, Stephen	5-11/190	1	North Alabama	IR
Johnson, Jimmie (TE)	6-2/246	D12a	Howard	—
Micho, Bobby (TE)	6-3/240	4	Texas	0/0
Middleton, Ron (TE)	6-2/252	4	Auburn	2/0
Monk, Art	6-3/209	10	Syracuse	16/13
Orr, Terry (TE)	6-3/227	4	Texas	16/3
Sanders, Ricky	5-11/180	4	SW Texas State	16/4
Tice, Mike (TE)	6-7/244	9	Maryland	16/16
Warren, Don (TE)	6-4/242	11	San Diego State	14/14
DEFENSIVE LINEMEN	HI./WT.	NFL Exp.	College	1988 Games GP/GS
Bostic, Jeff (C)	6-2/260	10	Clemson	13/11
Brown, Ray	6-5/280	4	Arkansas	15/11
Grimm, Russ (G)	6-3/275	9	Pittsburgh	5/4
Harbour, Dave (C)	6-4/265	2	Illinois	15/0
Hitchcock, Ray (C)	6-2/289	2	Minnesota	IR
Jacoby, Joe (T)	6-7/305	9	Louisville	16/13
Lachey, Jim (T)	6-6/290	5	Ohio State	16/15
May, Mark	6-6/295	9	Pittsburgh	16/16
McKenzie, Raleigh	6-2/270	5	Tennessee	16/14
Morris, Mike	6-5/275	2	NE Missouri State	IR
Schlereth, Mark (C)	6-3/265	D10	Idaho	—
Simmons, Ed (T)	6-5/280	3	Eastern Washington	16/0
Tamm, Ralph (G)	6-3/285	1	West Chester (Pa.) St.	1R
DEFENSIVE LINEMEN	HI./WT.	NFL Exp.	College	1988 Games GP/GS
Benish, Dan (T)	6-5/275	6	Clemson	IR
Duckens, Mark (T)	6-4/270	1	Arizona State	IR
Grant, Darryl (T)	6-1/275	9	Rice	16/16
Hamel, Dean (T)	6-3/280	5	Tulsa	16/0
Koch, Markus (E)	6-5/275	4	Boise State	11/6
Mann, Charles (E)	6-6/270	7	Nevada-Reno	14/13
Manley, Dexter (E)	6-3/257	9	Oklahoma State	16/13
Maxey, Curtis (T)	6-3/298	2	Grambling State	16/0
Robinson, Lybrant (E)	6-4/250	D5b	Delaware State	3/0
Rocker, Tracy (T)	6-3/288	D3	Auburn	—
Stokes, Fred (E)	6-3/262	3	Georgia Southern	16/0
LINEBACKERS	HI./WT.	NFL Exp.	College	1988 Games GP/GS
Bonner, Brian	6-1/225	1	Minnesota	IR
Caldwell, Ravin	6-3/229	3	Arkansas	16/1
Coleman, Monte	6-2/230	11	Central Arkansas	13/9
Elam, Onzy	6-2/225	3	Tennessee	4/0
Gouveia, Kurt	6-1/227	3	Brigham Young	16/0
Graham, Don	6-2/244	2	Penn State	16/0
Hendrix, Kevin	6-3/266	D7	South Carolina	—
Kaufman, Mel	6-2/230	8	Cal Poly-SLO	11/6
Manusky, Greg	6-1/242	2	Colgate	7/0
Marshall, Wilber	6-1/230	6	Florida	16/16
Olkewicz, Neal	6-0/230	11	Maryland	16/16
Price, Stacy	6-2/194	2	Arkansas State	10/0
DEFENSIVE BACKS	HI./WT.	NFL Exp.	College	1988 Games GP/GS
Bowles, Todd (S)	6-2/203	4	Temple	16/16
Davis, Brian (CB)	6-2/190	3	Nebraska	9/6
Dillahun, Ellis (S)	5-11/190	2	East Carolina	8/0
Green, Darrell (CB)	5-8/170	7	Texas A&I	15/15
Johnson, A. J. (CB)	5-8/176	D6	SW Texas State	—
Mandeville, Chris (S)	6-1/213	2	UC Davis	2/0
Mayhew, Martin (CB)	5-8/172	1	Florida State	IR
Mims, Carl (CB)	5-10/180	1	Sam Houston State	IR
Profit, Eugene (CB)	5-10/175	4	Yale	1/0
Smiley, Tim (S)	6-0/190	D5a	Arkansas State	—
Vaughn, Clarence (S)	6-0/202	3	Northern Illinois	14/0
Walton, Alvin (S)	6-0/180	4	Kansas	16/16
Wilburn, Barry (CB)	6-3/186	5	Mississippi	10/10
SPECIALISTS	HI./WT.	NFL Exp.	College	1988 Games GP/GS
Barnhardt, Tom (P)	6-3/205	3	North Carolina	4/0
Horne, Greg (P)	6-0/188	3	Arkansas	16/0
Lohmiller, Chip (K)	6-3/213	2	Minnesota	16/0
Tuten, Rick (P)	6-2/218	1	Florida State	—

**OTHER FREE AGENTS IN CAMP**  
Grantis Bell, WR/KR; Jim Bishop, C/OG; Keith Fliberg, LB; Cedric Gordon, WR; Carl Henry, WR/KR; Harry Mehre, WR; Jeff Nunamacher, OG; Robert Presbury, DT; Dennis Smith, OT; Albert Williams, DE.

Not with Washington in 1988.

Includes totals with both Washington and another NFL team in 1988.

IR—Injured reserve.

Key to abbreviations on page 160.

## COACHES

**Head coach**—Joe Gibbs.  
**Assistant coaches**—  
Don Breaux (running backs).  
Joe Bugel (assistant head coach/offense).  
Jack Burns (quarterbacks).  
Larry Peccatiello (defensive coordinator).  
Richie Petitbon (assistant head coach/defense).  
Frank Raines (strength assistant).  
Dan Riley (strength).  
Wayne Sevier (special teams).  
Warren Simmons (tight ends).  
Charley Taylor (offensive assistant/receivers).  
Emmitt Thomas (defensive backs).  
LaVern Torgeson (defensive line).

## RECORDS/RANKINGS

**1988 regular-season record:** 7-9 (T3rd in NFC East); 4-4 in division; 6-6 in conference; 4-4 at home; 3-5 on road.

**1988 playoff record:** None.

**1988 team rankings:** total offense, 4th in NFC/6th in NFL; total defense, 10th/16th; rushing offense, 12th/25th; rushing defense, 7th/9th; passing offense, 1st/2nd; passing defense, 11th/22nd; scoring offense, 6th/10th; scoring defense, 13th/26th; takeaways, 13th/27th; giveaways, 12th/26th; turnover differential, 14th/28th; sacks, T5th/T7th; sacks allowed, T1st/T3rd.

**Gibbs' regular-season record:** 81-39 in 8 seasons with Redskins.

**Gibbs' post-season record:** 11-3 in playoffs with Redskins (2-1 in Super Bowls).

**Team record last five years:** 51-28 (.646, ranks 4th in league in that span).

## 1989 SCHEDULE

Sept. 11—N.Y. Giants (Mon.)  
Sept. 17—Philadelphia  
Sept. 24—at Dallas  
Oct. 1—at New Orleans  
Oct. 8—Phoenix  
Oct. 15—at N.Y. Giants  
Oct. 22—Tampa Bay  
Oct. 29—at Los Angeles Raiders  
Nov. 5—Dallas  
Nov. 12—at Philadelphia  
Nov. 20—Denver (Mon.)  
Nov. 26—Chicago  
Dec. 3—at Phoenix  
Dec. 10—San Diego  
Dec. 17—at Atlanta  
Dec. 23—at Seattle (Sat.)

## 1988 RESULTS

Sept. 5—at New York Giants 20-27  
Sept. 11—Pittsburgh 30-29  
Sept. 18—Philadelphia 17-10  
Sept. 25—at Phoenix 21-30  
Oct. 2—N.Y. Giants 23-24  
Oct. 9—at Dallas 35-17  
Oct. 16—Phoenix 33-17  
Oct. 23—at Green Bay 20-17  
Oct. 30—at Houston 17-41  
Nov. 6—New Orleans 27-24  
Nov. 13—Chicago 14-34  
Nov. 21—at San Francisco 21-37  
Nov. 27—Cleveland 13-17  
Dec. 4—at Philadelphia 20-19  
Dec. 11—Dallas 17-24  
Dec. 17—at Cincinnati (OT) 17-20

## 1988 LEADERS

**Scoring (kicking):** Chip Lohmiller, 97 pts. (40/41 PATs, 19/26 FGs).  
**Scoring (touchdowns):** Ricky Sanders, 72 pts. (12 receiving).  
**Passing:** Doug Williams, 2,609 yds. (380 att., 213 comp., 56.1%, 15 TDs, 12 int.).  
**Rushing:** Kevin Bryant, 498 yds. (4.6 avg., 1 TD).  
**Receptions:** Ricky Sanders, 73 (1,148 yds., 15.7 avg., 12 TDs).  
**Interceptions:** Barry Wilburn, 4 (24 yds., 0 TDs).  
**Fumbles:** Alvin Walton, 189 (121 solo, 68 assisted).  
**Sacks:** Dexter Manley, 9 (69 yds.).  
**Punting:** Greg Coleman, 38.6 avg. (39 punts, 1,505 yds., 0 blocked).  
**Punt returns:** Derrick Shepard, 8.7 avg. (12 att., 104 yds., 0 TDs).  
**Kickoff returns:** Jamie Morris, 19.7 avg. (21 att., 413 yds., 0 TDs).



# Bold moves have Atlanta going in right direction

By GLENN SHEELEY  
Atlanta Journal-Constitution

**L**ittle by little, the Atlanta Falcons are trying to pick up the pieces of the disaster they became in the mid-1980s. Over the last two years, many of the pieces have been picked up, examined and tossed into Owner Rankin Smith's overflowing trash can.

An aggressive move in the Falcons' front office used to be selecting a new place for lunch. But with director of player personnel Ken Herock now on the scene, that has changed. In two seasons, Herock, an Al Davis disciple, has demonstrated more moves than your average Peachtree Street stripper. As a result, better athletes are appearing in Falcons uniforms, and that funny little bird logo is starting to look like something other than an ailing sparrow.

After a miserable 1-7 start last season, the Falcons went 4-4 over the final eight weeks and go into 1989 as a confident team. And a more talented one. An 8-8 record this season is a real possibility.

The Falcons don't have disgruntled Pro Bowl running back Gerald Riggs around anymore. Riggs, who got tired of getting beat up for a loser, was traded to Washington on draft day last April. It may turn out to be a steal of a deal for Atlanta. The Falcons received the Redskins' second-round draft pick this year and a first-round pick next year for a 28-year-old running back whose best years, many observers believe, may already be behind him.

Coach Marion Campbell and his staff are optimistic for a number of reasons, among them: Chris Miller, a strong-armed, agile and very competitive quarterback who will get better rapidly if he



*The offense didn't miss a beat when John Settle replaced injured Gerald Riggs at halfback last year.*

has the receivers on hand to lighten his load; linebackers Aundray Bruce and Marcus Cotton, the team's Nos. 1 and 2 draft picks in 1988 who had promising rookie seasons; and, of course, cornerback Deion (Neon) Sanders, their No. 1 pick this year. If the Falcons can ever get the gaudy Sanders through the airport metal detectors on road trips, he could be their star secondary man for a decade.

## COACHING

People are quick to note that Campbell's head coaching record (31-71-1 in eight seasons) is not the stuff of which trips to Canton are made. But with a young Falcons team searching for an identity, possibly even a father figure, the chemistry on this team is sound.

Campbell and secondary coach Fred Bruney handle the majority of the defensive plans. The offense is pretty much left to coordinator Rod Dowhower. Dowhower was criticized last year for being too conservative, but much of it wasn't his fault. The Falcons' offensive line and receivers were so banged up that Dowhower could barely put his multi-receiver formations on the field.

## OFFENSE

**QUARTERBACKS**—Miller's first full season was not awe-inspiring (11 touchdown passes, 12 interceptions), but he had few receivers to throw to and was hurt greatly by the early-season loss of rookie tight

end Alex Higdon. Miller missed three games with a sprained ankle early in the season, probably costing the Falcons two victories. But he has thrown the long ball well and should flourish if receivers such as rookie first-round pick Shawn Collins and second-year man Michael Haynes can perform.

Hugh Millen and Scott Campbell, who is coming off major knee surgery, will compete for the No. 2 job. If Campbell's knee is sound, which appeared to be the case at the end of last season, he'll be the backup.

**RUNNING BACKS**—John Settle took over last year when Riggs injured his knee and the offense didn't miss a beat. Settle rushed for 1,024 yards, caught 68 passes and made the Pro Bowl. With Riggs gone, the Falcons will put Settle at fullback and decide on a halfback.

And that should make for some interesting competition. The unknown factor at this point is the health of Kenny Flowers, whose knee surgery was worse than Campbell's and whose career is in jeopardy. Until his injury in the '88 preseason, Flowers' quickness had been impressive.

The Falcons hope they have some outside speed in Keith Jones, a third-round pick from Illinois. James Primus, who started last season at tailback, gained only 95 yards all year and has fallen out of the picture.

**RECEIVERS**—This is an area the Falcons need to upgrade. Their deep passing game, except for a few instances where Haynes, Floyd Dixon or Stacey Bailey got open, was a joke last year. Bailey, reed-thin at 160 pounds, is good when healthy but seldom is. Haynes is not afraid to go over the middle but caught just 13 passes in 15 games. Jessie Hester, who was acquired from the Los Angeles Raiders for a fifth-round pick, has been a disappointment.

Tight end remains a huge question mark. Higdon, who caught three passes for 60 yards and two touchdowns in three games before wrecking his knee, re-injured it in the off-season and underwent another operation. Big, fast and sure-handed, he may miss all of 1989.

**LINEMEN**—Ralph Norwood, a No. 2 pick from Louisiana State, could end the Falcons' right tackle woes. At 6-foot-7, 290 pounds, he could start on the right side or be groomed to eventually replace 33-year-old Mike Kenn at left tackle. Houston Hoover played well there last year as a rookie, but he was out of position. He probably will be moved to left guard. The man on the bubble if that happens is starting left guard John Scully.

Bill Fralic, the right guard, went to the Pro Bowl last season when he probably didn't deserve to. Even though he is coming off knee surgery, Fralic remains one of the best linemen in the league. Center Wayne Radloff missed six games with knee problems but is strong when healthy.

## DEFENSE

**LINEMEN**—The pass rush was much

## AT A GLANCE

**Strengths:** The defense added linebackers Aundray Bruce and Marcus Cotton last year and adds cornerback Deion Sanders this time around. It is the most rapidly improving part of the team. With decent weapons around him, quarterback Chris Miller will flourish.

**Weaknesses:** A deep passing game must be developed or the Falcons face another trying year on offense. The tight end situation is a concern with second-year man Alex Higdon, after a second knee operation, figuring to miss at least half of the season. Beyond John Settle, who went to the Pro Bowl last year, the running back picture is unclear.

**Key to success:** Bruce, Cotton and the defense need to make big plays until the offense gets in gear.

**Sure sign of trouble:** If Miller goes down with an injury.

**That's a fact:** The Falcons haven't had a winning season since going 5-4 in strike-shortened 1982.

**The head coach says:** "This team recognizes that if we keep putting it all together and do the right things, (we) can win for a long time."





## FALCONS DATA

improved last year, partially because of help from linebackers Bruce and Cotton. The Falcons had 30 quarterback sacks, up from a league-low 17 the year before. Nose tackle Tony Casillas had only two sacks but helped the defense by applying pressure. Defensive ends Rick Bryan (five) and Mike Gann (four) combined for nine sacks.

Although it isn't the dynamic line that one might expect from a unit with as many high draft choices as this one, the line made significant progress last season. Having quick, aggressive linebackers on the outside made a big difference.

**LINEBACKERS**—When healthy, Bruce and Cotton give the defense a completely new dimension: speed. The two rookies combined for 11 sacks despite injuries. Cotton (five sacks) played in 11 games but started only five. Bruce (six sacks) started slowly but finished strong, prompting Campbell to use him as a down lineman on occasion. Cotton was the better of the two at the beginning of the season but wore down late. The Falcons are concerned about Cotton's durability.

Tim Green, a nearly forgotten No. 1 pick from 1986, had four sacks as a down rusher and made five starts at an outside post. Veteran Joel Williams made starts on both the inside and outside, while Jessie Tuggle is becoming a steady force inside.

**DEFENSIVE BACKS**—Sanders is the man to watch here. He will start on one of the corners, either at the left spot currently occupied by nine-year man Bobby Butler or the right side, where Scott Case was a Pro Bowl performer last year. Case, who led the National Football League with 10 interceptions, might be moved back to free safety, where Bret Clark, because of an arthritic knee, could be forced into early retirement.

Second-year man Charles Dimry, impressive last year, could end up starting along with Sanders soon. Strong safety Robert Moore remains an obscure talent despite leading the secondary in tackles last year (68 solos) and intercepting five passes.

A few years ago, the secondary was the weakest link on this team. At one stage last season, it went 17 straight quarters without giving up a touchdown.

## SPECIAL TEAMS

The Falcons will enter the '89 season with their third placekicker in three years. Greg Davis, who replaced the retired Mick Luckhurst in 1988, was left unprotected last spring and is now with New England. Campbell is hoping that veteran Paul McFadden, formerly of the Philadelphia Eagles and New York Giants, will be an improvement. McFadden was successful on 14 of 19 field-goal attempts with the Giants last year.

Rick Donnelly improved his net punting average from 32.1 in 1987 to 35.7 last year on a league-high 98 punts. The punt coverage team was excellent, but the Falcons went through a cluster of people in an effort to find a game-breaking return man. Sanders figures to return punts and possibly kickoffs, too. ■

## 1989 ROSTER

QUARTERBACKS	Ht./Wt.	NFL Exp.	College	1988 Games GP/GS
Campbell, Scott	6-0/195	5	Purdue	1R
Millen, Hugh	6-5/216	2	Washington	3/0
Miller, Chris	6-2/200	3	Oregon	13/13
Singer, Paul	6-3/193	D8	Western Illinois	—
RUNNING BACKS	Ht./Wt.	NFL Exp.	College	1988 Games GP/GS
Flowers, Kenny	6-0/210	2	Clemson	1R
Griffin, Keith	5-8/185	5	Miami (Fla.)	10/0
Johnson, Undra	5-9/199	D7	West Virginia	—
Jones, Keith	6-1/205	D3	Illinois	—
Lang, Gene	5-10/206	6	Louisiana State	16/3
Paterra, Greg	5-11/211	D11	Slippery Rock	—
Primus, James	5-11/196	2	UCLA	16/6
Settle, John	5-9/207	3	Appalachian State	16/13
RECEIVERS	Ht./Wt.	NFL Exp.	College	1988 Games GP/GS
Bailey, Stacey	6-1/157	8	San Jose State	10/10
Beckman, Brad (TE)	6-3/240	2	Nebraska-Omaha	*9/0
Collins, Shawn	6-2/207	D1b	Northern Arizona	—
Craig, Paco	5-10/170	2	UCLA	*8/0
Dixon, Floyd	5-9/170	4	Stephen F. Austin St.	14/14
Haynes, Michael	6-0/180	2	Northern Arizona	15/5
Heller, Ron (TE)	6-3/235	3	Oregon State	*16/8
Hester, Jessie	5-11/170	5	Florida State	16/3
Higdon, Alex (TE)	6-5/247	2	Ohio State	3/0
Lee, Danzell (TE)	6-2/237	3	Lamar	5/0
Milling, James	5-9/156	2	Maryland	6/0
Modesitt, Jeff (TE)	6-5/246	1	Delaware	*1R
Sadowski, Troy (TE)	5-5/243	D6	Georgia	—
Taylor, Kirtick (KR)	6-10/190	2	Washington State	*16/0
Thomas, George	5-9/169	1	Nevada-Las Vegas	1R
Whitaker, Dante (TE)	6-3/240	1	Mississippi Valley State	*1R
DEFENSIVE LINEMEN	Ht./Wt.	NFL Exp.	College	1988 Games GP/GS
Boyle, Jim (T)	6-5/285	3	Tulane	*6/0
Brotzki, Bob (T)	6-5/275	4	Syracuse	*7/0
Carlson, Mark (T)	6-6/295	2	Southern Connecticut	*0/0
Clayton, Stan (T/G)	6-3/265	2	Penn State	2/2
Dukes, Jamie (G)	6-1/278	4	Florida State	12/5
Fralic, Bill (G)	6-5/280	5	Pittsburgh	14/14
Frank Garry (G/C)	6-2/280	1	Mississippi State	1R
Harvey, James (G)	6-3/265	2	Jackson State	*1/0
Hoover, Houston (T)	6-2/285	2	Jackson State	15/12
Kenn, Mike (T)	6-7/277	12	Michigan	16/16
Norwood, Ralph (T)	6-7/290	D2	Louisiana State	—
Oswald, Paul (G)	6-4/275	3	Kansas	*14/1
Radloff, Wayne (C)	6-5/277	5	Georgia	10/10
Riley, Bob (T)	6-6/270	2	Indiana	*0/0
Robison, Tommy (G)	6-4/290	2	Texas A&M	*1R
Scully, John (G)	6-6/270	9	Notre Dame	11/11
Thomas, John (T)	6-4/290	2	Toledo	*0/0
DEFENSIVE LINEMEN	Ht./Wt.	NFL Exp.	College	1988 Games GP/GS
Baldinger, Gary (NT)	6-3/265	4	Wake Forest	*11/4
Bowick, Tony (NT)	6-2/265	D12	Tennessee-Chatt.	—
Brown, Greg (E)	6-5/265	9	Kansas State	16/1
Bryan, Rick (E)	6-4/265	6	Oklahoma	16/15
Casillas, Tony (NT)	6-3/280	4	Oklahoma	16/16
Gann, Mike (E)	6-5/275	5	Notre Dame	16/16
Martin, Charles (NT)	6-4/280	6	Livingston (Ala.)	16/0
Mikola, Doug (NT)	6-1/270	3	Portland State	*2/0
Thomas, Ben (T)	6-3/275	4	Auburn	*8/5
Young, Mitchell	6-4/260	1	Arkansas St.	1R
LINEBACKERS	Ht./Wt.	NFL Exp.	College	1988 Games GP/GS
Bruce, Aundray	6-5/248	2	Auburn	16/16
Cotton, Marcus	6-3/230	2	Southern California	11/5
Dunn, Chris	6-3/230	D9	Cal-Poly SLO	—
Green, Tim	6-2/245	4	Syracuse	10/5
Rade, John	6-1/240	7	Boise State	15/15
Reid, Michael	6-2/226	3	Wisconsin	16/3
Tuggle, Jessie	5-11/225	3	Valdosta (Ga.) State	16/8
Williams, Joel	6-1/227	11	Wisconsin-LaCrosse	14/12
DEFENSIVE BACKS	Ht./Wt.	NFL Exp.	College	1988 Games GP/GS
Butler, Bobby (CB)	5-11/175	9	Florida State	16/16
Case, Scott (CB)	6-0/178	6	Oklahoma	16/15
Cooper, Evan	5-11/194	6	Michigan	9/0
Dimry, Charles	6-0/175	2	Nevada-Las Vegas	16/1
Floyd, Norman (S)	5-11/198	1	South Carolina	*1R
Gordon, Tim (S)	6-0/188	3	Tulsa	16/5
Moore, Robert (S)	5-11/190	4	Northwestern (La.) St.	16/16
Sanders, Deion (CB)	5-11/187	D1a	Florida State	—
Shelley, Elbert (S)	5-11/180	3	Arkansas State	12/0
Sowell, Robert	5-11/185	5	Howard	*0/0
SPECIALISTS	Ht./Wt.	NFL Exp.	College	1988 Games GP/GS
Benyola, George (K)	5-10/185	2	Louisiana Tech	*0/0
Donnelly, Rick (P)	6-0/190	5	Wyoming	16/0
McFadden, Paul (K)	5-11/166	6	Youngstown State	*12/0
Schmidt, Derek (K)	5-8/170	1	Florida State	*0/0

## OTHER FREE AGENTS IN CAMP

Oscar Angulo, TE; Norris Blount, CB; Deon Booker; Steve Bullitt, LB; Ted Chapman, DT; Ivan Cook, LB; Herb Gainer, WR; Greg Harris, WR/KR; Michael Hooper, DE; Ray Jackson, CB; Robert Jones, S; Steve McMillon, CB; Maury Metcalf, LB; Mark Millett, TE; George Mira, LB; Louis Murino, OG/OT; Melvin Patterson, WR; Kevin Simien, WR; Fred Small, LB; Galand Thaxton, LB; Alonzo Washington, RB.

\*Not with Atlanta in 1988.

†Includes totals with both Atlanta and another NFL team in 1988.

1R—Injured reserve.

Key to abbreviations on page 160.

## COACHES

Head coach—Marion Campbell.

Assistant coaches—

Tom Brasher (defensive line).  
Fred Bruney (assistant head coach).  
Scott Campbell (administrative assistant).  
Chuck Clausen (linebackers).  
Steve Crosby (running backs).  
Rod Dowhower (offensive coordinator).  
Foge Fazio (tight ends/special teams).  
Jim Hanifan (assistant head coach/offense).  
Claude Humphrey (defensive assistant).  
Tim Jorgensen (strength and conditioning).  
Jimmy Raye (receivers).

## RECORDS/RANKINGS

1988 regular-season record: 5-11 (4th in NFC West); 1-5 in division; 4-8 in conference; 2-6 at home; 3-5 on road.

1988 playoff record: None.

1988 team rankings: total offense, 13th in NFC; 25th in NFL; total defense, 13th; 25th; rushing offense, 5th/14th; rushing defense, 14th/25th; passing offense, 13th/25th; passing defense, 10th/21st; scoring offense, 12th/25th; scoring defense, 18th/11th; takeaways, 14th/17th; giveaways, 10th/22nd; turnover differential, 17th/12th; sacks, 12th/12th/20th; sacks allowed, 7th/19th.

Campbell's regular-season record: 14-42 in 5 seasons with Falcons; 31-71-1 in 8 NFL seasons overall.

Campbell's postseason record: None. Team record last five years: 23-55-1 (.297, ranks 27th in league in that span).

## 1989 SCHEDULE

Sept. 10	—Los Angeles Rams
Sept. 17	—Dallas
Sept. 24	—at Indianapolis
Oct. 1	—at Green Bay (at Milwaukee)
Oct. 8	—at Los Angeles Rams
Oct. 15	—New England
Oct. 22	—at Phoenix
Oct. 29	—at New Orleans
Nov. 5	—Buffalo
Nov. 12	—at San Francisco
Nov. 19	—New Orleans
Nov. 26	—at New York Jets
Dec. 3	—San Francisco
Dec. 10	—at Minnesota
Dec. 17	—Washington
Dec. 24	—Detroit

## 1988 RESULTS

Sept. 4	—at Detroit	17-31
Sept. 11	—New Orleans	21-29
Sept. 18	—at San Francisco	34-17
Sept. 25	—at Dallas	20-26
Oct. 2	—Seattle	20-31
Oct. 9	—L.A. Rams	0-33
Oct. 16	—at Denver	14-30
Oct. 23	—N.Y. Giants	16-23
Oct. 30	—at Philadelphia	27-24
Nov. 6	—Green Bay	20-0
Nov. 13	—San Diego	7-10
Nov. 20	—at L.A. Raiders	12-6
Nov. 27	—Tampa Bay	17-10
Dec. 4	—San Francisco	3-13
Dec. 11	—at L.A. Rams	7-22
Dec. 18	—at New Orleans	9-10

## 1988 LEADERS

Scoring (kicking): Greg Davis, 82 pts. (25/27 PATs, 19/30 FGs).

Scoring (touchdowns): John Settle, 48 pts. (7 rushing, 1 receiving).

Passing: Chris Miller, 2,133 yds. (351 att., 184 comp., 52.4%, 11 TDs, 12 int.).  
Rushing: John Settle, 1,024 yds. (4.4 avg., 7 TDs).

Receptions: John Settle, 68 (570 yds., 8.4 avg., 1 TD).

Interceptions: Scott Case, 10 (47 yds., 0 TDs).

Tackles: John Rade, 137 (67 solo, 70 assisted).

Sacks: Aundray Bruce, 6 (42 yds.).

Punting: Rick Donnelly, 40.0 avg. (98 punts, 3,920 yds., 0 blocked).

Punt returns: Lew Barnes, 9.0 avg. (34 att., 307 yds., 0 TDs).

Kickoff returns: Evan Cooper, 20.7 avg. (16 att., 331 yds., 0 TDs).



# New-look Rams hoping for old-time success

By DON SEEHOLZER  
Orange County Register

**T**wo years ago, the Los Angeles Rams were a veteran team built around running back Eric Dickerson and a conservative defense.

Today, they are a freewheeling offensive and defensive team and one of the youngest in the National Football League.

The transformation began October 31, 1987, when the Rams traded a disgruntled Dickerson to Indianapolis in a three-way deal that included Buffalo. The Rams came out of the whirlwind with two players (running backs Greg Bell and Owen Gill) and six draft choices.

Those picks were the foundation of a 1988 draft that yielded running back Gaston Green, wide receivers Aaron Cox and Willie (Flipper) Anderson, linebacker Fred Strickland and fullback Robert Del-pino, among others.

Joining them this year will be defensive end Bill Hawkins and fullback Cleveland Gary, both first-rounders from Miami (Fla.), and second-round linebackers Frank Stams (Notre Dame) and Brian Smith (Auburn).

Put them all together and it adds up to another infusion of fresh blood for the Rams, who could have as many as 20 players on their roster who were not on the team that finished 6-9 two seasons ago.

The Rams were 10-6 last year, a campaign that ended with a 28-17, wild-card loss at Minnesota. Nevertheless, the Rams are being picked by many people to unseat Super Bowl champion San Francisco in the NFC West and possibly even make it to the Super Bowl.

Those are pretty high expectations, but Coach John Robinson isn't selling his team short.

"We may have 25 players who are 25 and under," he said. "Can a team with



*No Ram had a better 1988 season than Henry Ellard, who set a club record for receptions and led the NFL in receiving yards.*

that much youth actually get up there into the NFC championship or the final four? I think we have a shot at it."

## COACHING

Remember the days when a John Robinson-coached team passed the ball about as often as Halley's Comet paid a visit?

Well, those days are over.

After four straight years of finishing last or next to last in National Football League passing offense, the Rams shot all the way to third last season. Just as important, Robinson never once tried to disconnect offensive coordinator Ernie Zampese's field phone.

Robinson also came up with the idea of using five linebackers and just two defensive linemen to put more pressure on the opposing quarterback. The result was a Rams defense that produced a league-high 56 sacks.

"The worst thing that could happen to us would be some sense of saying: 'Oh, we're OK again now. Everything's OK; just stand still again,'" Robinson said. "I really feel like I learned a great deal last year in terms of how much an NFL team has to change from year to year. I hope it becomes a way of life for us."

## OFFENSE

**QUARTERBACKS**—The Rams haven't had a quarterback make the Pro Bowl since Pat Haden in 1977, but it might happen this year.

In his third professional season, Jim Ev-

erett established himself as one of the league's top young quarterbacks, setting team records for yards passing (3,964), touchdowns (31), attempts (517) and completions (308).

Those numbers weren't enough to get him to Hawaii, but Everett looks more comfortable in the Zampese system with each passing (no pun intended) day.

Mark Herrmann is a nine-year veteran backup who is familiar with the Rams' offensive scheme from his days with Zampese in San Diego, but he's still a big drop-off from Everett, who must stay healthy for the Rams to be a serious contender.

**RUNNING BACKS**—A throw-in in the Dickerson trade, Bell took over the starting tailback job after Charles White was suspended by the NFL for drug abuse one week into the season. And once Bell got the job, he never gave it back, finishing as the NFL's fourth-leading rusher (1,212 yards) while scoring a league-high 18 touchdowns.

As a fullback, Gary won't be in direct competition with Bell or Green, but Del-pino could be if he winds up moving from fullback to running back, as expected.

**RECEIVERS**—No Ram, including Everett, had a better 1988 season than team most valuable player Henry Ellard, who caught a club-record 86 passes and led the NFL with 1,414 yards receiving en route to the Pro Bowl.

Cox dropped a few passes during one stretch of last season but finished with 28 receptions for 590 yards and five touchdowns. Anderson caught only 11 balls all year, but his 29-yard average was the best on the team. He could push Cox for a starting job.

The best hands on the team belong to tight end Pete Holohan, who came over from San Diego and finished second to Ellard with 59 catches.

Damone Johnson caught 42 passes and did a solid blocking job at the other tight end spot, but the Rams lost veteran Eric Sievers, who signed with New England as an unprotected free agent.

**LINEMEN**—Right tackle Jackie Slater made the Pro Bowl for the fifth time last season. Left tackle Irv Pankey didn't make the Hawaiian trip but probably should have.

However, at 35 and 30, respectively, both figure to share playing time with third-year man Robert Cox, who will be used enough this season to be billed as a third starter.

The Rams are strong in the middle of the line, with Pro Bowl center Doug Smith and left guard Tom Newberry, who made his first Pro Bowl appearance last season.

Duval Love did a solid job at right guard replacing the retired Dennis Harrah, but injury-prone Tony Slaton is the only backup.

## DEFENSE

**LINEMEN**—Of the 12 players the Rams lost during the free-agency signing period, the departure that will hurt most was that

## AT A GLANCE

**Strengths:** The Rams ranked third among NFL teams in passing offense last season, led the league in sacks and used three of their first four draft choices on pass rushers.

**Weaknesses:** Inexperience and lack of depth at inside linebacker and safety. Age and a lack of depth in the offensive line.

**Key to success:** Keeping Everett healthy. If he goes down, so do the Rams' Super Bowl hopes.

**Sure sign of trouble:** Anything less than a 4-1 start. The schedule contains few soft spots the rest of the way.

**That's a fact:** Robinson has had just one losing season (1987) in his head coaching career—college or pro.

**The head coach says:** "I thought the organization as a whole moved a lot last year. I think it's a team that had stagnated, for whatever reason, two years ago. I think we feel good about the fact that we got it going again. The question is, can we keep it moving?"





of defensive tackle Gary Jeter, who took his 65 career sacks to New England for a two-year, \$900,000 contract.

Hawkins will be tried at Jeter's old spot, but the former Hurricane was most effective as an outside rusher at Miami and could wind up doing the same with the Rams.

To compensate for the loss of Jeter, the Rams signed free agents Byron Darby (Colts) and Henry Brown (Giants), and they have a number of other tackle possibilities, including Doug Reed, Alvin Wright and Shawn Miller.

**LINEBACKERS**—The Rams' best linebacker last year was Kevin Greene, who was credited with 16½ sacks from his left outside spot, the second-best total in the league.

Right outside linebacker Mel Owens was playing like a Pro Bowler before suffering an ankle injury halfway through the season. The Rams covered themselves in case Owens' ankle is not 100 percent by drafting Stams and Smith, two outside pass-rushing specialists.

This team, however, is dangerously thin at inside linebacker, where Mark Jerue is coming off another arthroscopic knee surgery and Fred Strickland and Larry Kelm are the starters.

Mark Messner, a sixth-round pick from Michigan, will be tried at Jerue's linebacker/nose tackle spot.

**DEFENSIVE BACKS**—There will be changes in the secondary. Veteran safety Johnnie Johnson signed with Seattle as a free agent and second-year man Anthony Newman is expected to unseat incumbent LeRoy Irvin at right cornerback.

Jerry Gray made the Pro Bowl for the third straight season at left cornerback, but that didn't stop speculation that he still might wind up at free safety. If he doesn't, the starting job will go to either second-year man James Washington or veteran Vince Newsome, who spent the second half of the '88 season on injured reserve with a herniated disc in his neck.

Newsome, however, could just as easily end up at strong safety, where third-year man Michael Stewart also is in the running.

## SPECIAL TEAMS

Second-round pick Darryl Henley was one of the top punt returners in the nation his last two years at UCLA and is expected to step right in at that position his rookie year. The Rams averaged just 6.6 yards per punt return last season.

The Rams also may have a new kick returner. Ron Brown still hadn't been signed or traded as of draft day.

Dale Hatcher spent the first nine games of last season on injured reserve after arthroscopic knee surgery but remains one of the best punters in the league when healthy. He averaged 39.6 yards on 36 punts a year ago.

It was a record-setting year for place-kicker Mike Lansford, who passed Bob Waterfield to become the Rams' all-time leading scorer with 582 points. He also set a single-season scoring record with 117 points and tied Bruce Gossett's club mark in career field goals with 120. ■

# RAMS DATA

## 1989 ROSTER

QUARTERBACKS	Ht./Wt.	NFL Exp.	College	1988 Games GP/GS
Carlson, Jeff	6-3/215	D4	Weber State	—
Everett, Jim	6-5/212	4	Purdue	16/16
Herrmann, Mark	6-4/186	9	Purdue	6/0
RUNNING BACKS				
Bell, Greg	5-10/210	6	Notre Dame	16/13
Delpino, Robert (FB)	6-0/205	2	Missouri	15/3
Gary, Cleveland	6-0/226	D1b	Miami (Fla.)	—
Green, Gaston	5-10/189	2	UCLA	10/0
Guman, Mike (FB)	6-2/216	10	Penn State	1/0
McGee, Buford	6-0/206	7	Mississippi	16/10
RECEIVERS				
Anderson, Willie	6-0/169	2	UCLA	16/0
Brown, Ron	5-11/181	6	Arizona State	7/0
Cox, Aaron	5-9/174	2	Arizona State	16/15
Ellard, Henry	5-11/175	6	Fresno State	16/15
Henley, Thomas	5-10/180	1	Stanford	0/0
Holohan, Pete (TE)	6-4/232	9	Notre Dame	16/6
Johnson, Damone (TE)	6-4/230	4	Cal Poly SLO	16/15
Kirk, Vernon (TE)	6-2/250	D9	Pittsburgh	—
Williams, Mike	5-10/177	D10	Northeastern	—
DEFENSIVE LINEMEN				
Cox, Robert (T)	6-5/270	3	UCLA	16/0
Diaz-Infante, David	6-2/272	2	San Jose State	0/0
Love, Duval (G)	6-3/280	5	UCLA	15/15
Mullin, R.C. (T)	6-6/300	1	SW Louisiana	IR
Newberry, Tom (G)	6-2/279	4	Wisconsin-LaCrosse	16/16
Pankey, Irv (T)	6-5/267	10	Penn State	16/16
Robbins, Kevin (T)	6-4/286	D3	Michigan State	—
Slaton, Jackie (T)	6-4/275	14	Jackson State	16/16
Slaton, Tony	6-3/265	6	Southern California	15/1
Smith, Doug (C)	6-3/260	12	Bowling Green State	16/16
Wheat, Warren (T)	6-6/255	D8	Brigham Young	—
DEFENSIVE LINEMEN				
Brown, Henry (NT)	6-3/265	1	Florida	*IR
Darby, Byron (E)	6-4/260	7	Southern California	*16/1
Hawkins, Bill (E)	6-6/265	D1a	Miami (Fla.)	—
Miller, Shawn (E)	6-4/255	6	Utah State	16/16
Piel, Mike (E)	6-4/263	1	Illinois	IR
Reed, Doug (E)	6-3/250	6	San Diego State	16/15
Wright, Alvin (NT)	6-2/256	4	Jacksonville State	16/15
LINEBACKERS				
Bethune, George	6-4/238	D7	Alabama	—
Brown, Richard	6-3/240	2	San Diego State	0/0
Davis, Wayne	6-1/213	3	Alabama	*16/0
Ekern, Carl	6-3/222	14	San Jose State	16/16
Faryniarz, Brett	6-3/225	2	San Diego State	15/0
Greene, Kevin	6-3/238	5	Auburn	16/14
Jerue, Mark	6-3/234	7	Washington	12/11
Kelm, Larry	6-4/226	3	Texas A&M	16/1
McDonald, Mike	6-1/235	5	Southern California	16/0
Messner, Mark	6-2/256	D6b	Michigan	—
Owens, Mel	6-2/224	9	Michigan	7/4
Smith, Brian	6-6/242	D2b	Auburn	—
Stams, Frank	6-2/230	D2a	Notre Dame	—
Strickland, Fred	6-2/224	2	Purdue	16/0
Wilcher, Mike	6-3/240	7	North Carolina	16/15
DEFENSIVE BACKS				
Brock, Louis (CB)	5-10/173	2	Southern California	*3/0
Gray, Jerry (CB)	6-0/185	5	Texas	16/16
Harrison, Rob	6-2/220	1	Cal State-Sacramento	0/0
Henley, Darryl (CB)	5-9/165	D2c	UCLA	—
Hicks, Clifford (CB)	5-10/188	3	Oregon	7/0
Irvin, LeRoy (CB)	5-11/184	10	Kansas	16/16
Jackson, Alfred	6-0/177	D5	San Diego State	—
Kaumeier, Thom (S)	5-11/187	D6a	Oregon	—
Newman, Anthony (CB)	6-0/199	2	Oregon	16/0
Newsome, Vince (S)	6-1/183	7	Washington	6/6
Stewart, Michael (S)	5-11/195	3	Fresno State	16/10
Washington, James (S)	6-1/191	2	UCLA	16/0
SPECIALISTS				
Hatcher, Dale (P)	6-2/211	6	Clemson	7/0
Lansford, Mike (K)	6-0/183	8	Washington	16/0
Zendejas, Marty (K)	5-9/165	R	Nevada-Reno	—

### OTHER FREE AGENTS IN CAMP

Richard Ashe, TE; Richard Calvin, RB; Greg Couette, CB; Steve Dominic, DE; Jim Doughty, CB; Mel Farr, RB; Robert Harrison, FB; Bryan Hawkins, WR; Marco Johnson, WR; Andre Lloyd, LB; Tyrone McCullough, WR; Erik McKee, TE; Rick McLeod, OT; Ron Nesbitt, G; Clarence Nunn, CB; Chris Parker, QB; Thor Salonoa, LB; Tony Sargent, WR; Mark Schmidt, T; Bob Sledge, OT; Pernell Taylor, FB; Gregg Wolfson, S.

\*Not with Rams in 1988.

IR—Injured reserve.

Key to abbreviations on page 160.

## COACHES

Head coach—John Robinson.

Assistant coaches—

Larry Brooks (assistant defensive line).  
Dick Coury (quarterbacks).  
Artie Gigantino (special teams).  
Marv Goux (defensive line).  
Gil Haskell (running backs).  
Hudson Houck (offensive line).  
Steve Shafer (defensive backfield).  
Fritz Shurmur (defensive coordinator).  
Norval Turner (wide receivers/tight ends).  
Fred Whittingham (outside linebackers).  
Ernie Zampese (offensive coordinator).

## RECORDS/RANKINGS

**1988 regular-season record:** 10-6 (T2nd in NFC West); 4-2 in division; 8-4 in conference; 4-4 at home; 6-2 on road.

**1988 playoff record:** Lost to Minnesota, 28-17, in NFC wild-card game.

**1988 team rankings:** total offense, 2nd in NFC/3rd in NFL; total defense, 5th/9th; rushing offense, 6th/15th; rushing defense, 6th/7th; passing offense, 2nd/3rd; passing defense, 7th/17th; scoring offense, 1st/3rd; scoring defense, 4th/7th; takeaways, 6th/9th; giveaways, 17th/115th; turnover differential, T5th/110th; sacks, 1st/1st; sacks allowed, 4th/7th.

**Robinson's regular-season record:** 56-39 in 6 seasons with Rams.

**Robinson's postseason record:** 2-5 in playoffs with Rams.

**Team record last five years:** 47-32 (.595, ranks 9th in league in that span).

## 1989 SCHEDULE

Sept. 10—at Atlanta  
Sept. 17—Indianapolis  
Sept. 24—Green Bay  
Oct. 1—at San Francisco  
Oct. 8—Atlanta  
Oct. 16—at Buffalo (Mon.)  
Oct. 22—New Orleans  
Oct. 29—at Chicago  
Nov. 5—at Minnesota  
Nov. 12—New York Giants  
Nov. 19—Phoenix  
Nov. 26—at New Orleans  
Dec. 3—at Dallas  
Dec. 11—San Francisco (Mon.)  
Dec. 17—New York Jets  
Dec. 24—at New England

## 1988 RESULTS

Sept. 4—at Green Bay 34-7  
Sept. 11—Detroit 17-10  
Sept. 18—at L.A. Raiders 22-17  
Sept. 25—at N.Y. Giants 45-31  
Oct. 2—Phoenix 21-41  
Oct. 9—at Atlanta 33-0  
Oct. 16—San Francisco 21-24  
Oct. 23—Seattle 31-10  
Oct. 30—at New Orleans 12-10  
Nov. 6—at Philadelphia 24-30  
Nov. 13—New Orleans 10-14  
Nov. 20—San Diego 24-38  
Nov. 27—at Denver 24-35  
Dec. 5—Chicago 23-3  
Dec. 11—Atlanta 22-7  
Dec. 18—at San Francisco 38-16

## 1988 LEADERS

**Scoring (kicking):** Mike Lansford, 117 pts. (45/48 PATs, 24/32 FGs).

**Scoring (touchdowns):** Greg Bell, 108 pts. (16 rushing, 2 receiving).

**Passing:** Jim Everett, 3,964 yds. (517 att., 308 comp., 59.6%, 31 TDs, 18 int.).

**Rushing:** Greg Bell, 1,212 yds. (4.2 avg., 16 TDs).

**Receptions:** Henry Ellard, 86 (1,414 yds., 16.4 avg., 10 TDs).

**Interceptions:** Johnnie Johnson, 4 (18 yds., 0 TDs).

**Tackles:** Carl Ekern, 93 (64 solo, 29 assisted).

**Sacks:** Kevin Greene, 16½ (112 yds.).

**Punting:** Rich Camarillo, 39.5 avg. (40 punts, 1,579 yds., 0 blocked).

**Punt returns:** Clifford Hicks, 5.8 avg. (25 att., 144 yds., 0 TDs).

**Kickoff returns:** Robert Delpino, 23.8 avg. (14 att., 333 yds., 0 TDs).



# Saints look too holey to be considered heavenly

By JIMMY SMITH  
New Orleans Times Picayune

**Y**ou might think that with 22 wins over the last two seasons, the New Orleans Saints would have a heavenly future.

But hold on to your halos. The Saints enter the 1989 season with many holes in their lineup.

"We've got a lot of concerns," said Jim Mora, the winningest coach in club history. The Saints lost eight players during the free-agency period last spring, including their top kick returner, Mel Gray, and two starting cornerbacks, Van Jakes and Reggie Sutton. Gray accumulated 2,829 kick-return yards in his three seasons with New Orleans, and the loss of Jakes and Sutton has further depleted an already questionable cornerback corps.

"The situation at cornerback is shaky, and it was even before this free agency thing," Mora said.

In addition to the secondary, another area that must be addressed is the defensive line, particularly the pass rush. The Saints had a paltry 31 sacks a year ago, 11th best in the 14-team National Football Conference.

It all seems to add up to a 1989 season that, at this point, looks anything but heavenly.

## COACHING

If the Saints have one intangible going for them, it's their coaching staff. Mora and his staff have proven they can get a lot of production from little talent. Though Mora has a tendency to work his team too hard on the practice field, his extensive off-the-field preparation in the film room and meeting room pays off on Sunday. This group is thorough, well prepared and knowledgeable of the opposition.

Perhaps the staff's biggest plus is its



*Coach Jim Mora and his staff have proven they can get a lot of production from little talent.*

ability to deal with injuries. The coaches have convinced the Saints that players are merely interchangeable parts. When one goes down, another goes in with no adverse affect on the team. Despite some critical injuries in the past, production hasn't dropped off with replacements in the game and, in some instances, production has improved.

## OFFENSE

**QUARTERBACKS**—Barring injury, Bobby Hebert is the starter. He had a stretch of games last season when he was simply phenomenal, but that production didn't carry over into the second half of the season. The Saints were a dismal 3-5 over the last eight games, although it would be unfair to lay all the blame on Hebert.

The backup job figures to go to either veteran Dave Wilson or former replacement player John Fourcade, a New Orleans native and fan favorite. Wilson has an injury-plagued past and a \$450,000 salary that could buy him a ticket out of town. Fourcade has superior arm strength, is younger and comes cheaper. He also turned down a sizable free-agent offer from the Rams to stay with the Saints.

**RUNNING BACKS**—There are some questions that must be answered. The starting tailbacks, Rueben Mayes and Dalton Hilliard, are both free agents. Mayes walked out of camp a year ago in a contract dispute when he thought the club was backing off a renegotiation promise after successive Pro Bowl selections. Hilliard used that to his advantage to become the starter.

The two players spent most of last season alternating for one another—Mayes and Hilliard each started nine games—but the platooning did nothing but diminish the effectiveness of each. Hilliard led the Saints with 823 yards rushing and Mayes had 628, but neither runner could

get into a groove with fewer than 20 carries per game.

The Saints are looking for big things from second-year fullback Craig Heyward, the team's No. 1 draft choice in 1988 whose rookie season was cut short by a knee injury. Heyward damaged cartilage in his right knee at midseason and carried the ball only two times in the second half of the season. He underwent an arthroscopic procedure to repair the damage in the off-season.

The backup fullback is Buford Jordan, an undersized overachiever who will be tough to displace.

**RECEIVERS**—Pro Bowler Eric Martin and third-year player Lonzell Hill are firmly entrenched as starters. Martin caught 85 passes for 1,083 yards and seven touchdowns a year ago, while Hill caught 66 balls for 703 yards and seven touchdowns. The Saints lost three receivers in the free-agency sweepstakes but made up for their departure by selecting three receivers in the college draft.

The coaching staff is expecting Brett Perriman, a 1988 second-round draft choice, to rebound from a disappointing rookie year. He didn't catch many balls last year (16) and his deep speed wasn't a factor because the Saints didn't throw him any deep passes.

Tight ends John Tice and Hoby Brenner can block as well as catch, but the jury is still out on third tight end Greg Scales, a fifth-round pick a year ago.

**LINEMEN**—The starters are set, with Jim Dombrowski and Stan Brock manning the tackles, Brad Edelman and Steve Trapilo the guard spots and Steve Korte at center.

But Brock, the oldest starter, is coming off major knee surgery (he tore two ligaments in his right knee in a practice session) and is entering his 10th year. He also has had major surgery on both knees and his back.

## AT A GLANCE

**Strengths:** With bolder play-calling, the Saints could be an explosive offensive team. The starting linebackers are the best in football, and the kicking game is solid.

**Weaknesses:** The defensive line is aging, was non-productive in 1988 and needs a big year from No. 1 draftee Wayne Martin. The secondary was depleted by free agency and will be inexperienced in 1989.

**Key to success:** A better pass rush that will help a young secondary. Also, a consistent offensive performance through the entire season, not just half of it.

**Sure sign of trouble:** If the Saints don't have the guts to start young, inexperienced players at cornerback.

**That's a fact:** The Saints were 9-3 and had a two-game lead in the NFC West before going 1-3 in their last four games to finish out of the playoffs.

**The head coach says:** "Defensive line is a major concern of mine, and I don't think our defensive backs played well at all last year. It's a muddled situation."





The Saints lost capable backup Bill Contz in the free-agency period and reserve Daren Gilbert had off-season back surgery. Second-year player Glenn Derby may be called upon as a reserve, while veteran Joel Hilgenberg is a valuable sub who can start at either guard or center and is the club's deep snapper.

## DEFENSE

**LINEMEN**—There will be plenty of shakeups in this department. No. 1 draft choice Wayne Martin of Arkansas will likely be the starting left end. Pat Swoopes, a 1986 11th-round choice cut twice previously, figures to open the season at nose tackle, while veteran Jim Wilks gets the nod at right end.

James Geathers can't play on every down because he's weak against the run, but he can rush the passer, as can Frank Warren. Longtime starter Bruce Clark lost his left end spot last year because of an arthritic right knee and is in the coaching staff's doghouse. Clark has a guaranteed \$650,000 contract and could push Swoopes at nose tackle.

**LINEBACKERS**—Rickey Jackson, Sam Mills, Vaughan Johnson and Pat Swilling constitute perhaps the best starting line-backing corps in the NFL. Outside linebackers Swilling and Jackson had seven sacks each in 1988 and provided the bulk of the New Orleans pass rush.

Depth on the inside, however, may be a problem. Alvin Toles is a solid inside backup but may miss the entire season because of a severe knee injury. Reserves Joe Kohlbrand, Brian Forde and James Haynes are all outside linebackers. The Saints drafted two linebackers, Virginia's David Griggs and Cal State Fullerton's Jerry Leggett, in hopes of finding some inside depth.

**DEFENSIVE BACKS**—This is another problem area. Untested third-year pro Milton Mack will be one starting cornerback, and former safety Toi Cook could be the other. The coaching staff wants to move veteran cornerback Dave Waymer to free safety, but he and Mack are the only veteran cornerbacks on the roster.

New Orleans took four cornerbacks in the draft, including promising Robert Massey of North Carolina Central in the second round. Massey won't start immediately but could later in the season. Gene Atkins and Antonio Gibson will battle for the starting strong safety spot, while free safety Brett Maxie will probably be backed up by Waymer.

## SPECIAL TEAMS

Placekicker Morten Andersen is coming off an inconsistent year (26 for 36 in field-goal attempts, with four misses under 40 yards), but he still is football's all-time percentage leader. Brian Hansen averaged 40.5 yards per punt, and the Saints hope he can regain the form that put him in the Pro Bowl as a rookie five years ago.

The Saints are always strong fundamentally on special teams, but they must find a way to compensate for the loss of Gray, one of the league's best kick-return men. ■

# SAINTS DATA

## 1989 ROSTER

QUARTERBACKS	Ht./Wt.	NFL Exp.	College	1988 Games GP/GS
Fourcade, John	6-1/208	3	Mississippi	1/0
Hebert, Bobby	6-4/215	5	Northwestern (La.)	St.16/16
Wilson, Dave	6-3/206	8	Illinois	1/0
RUNNING BACKS				
Henderson, Joe	6-0/205	D10	Iowa State	—
Heyward, Craig (FB)	5-11/251	2	Pittsburgh	11/8
Hilliard, Dalton	5-8/204	4	Louisiana State	16/9
Jordan, Buford (FB)	6-0/223	4	McNeese State	14/3
Mayes, Rueben	5-11/200	4	Washington State	16/9
Morse, Bobby	5-10/213	2	Michigan State	0/0
RECEIVERS				
Brenner, Hoby (TE)	6-4/240	9	Southern California	10/8
Cadore, Michael	5-8/169	D12	Eastern Kentucky	—
Colbert, Darrell	5-11/184	3	Texas Southern	*3/0
Hadley, Fred	6-0/176	D8	Mississippi State	—
Hill, Lonzell	6-0/189	3	Washington	16/15
Martin, Eric	6-1/207	5	Louisiana State	16/16
Perriman, Brett	5-9/175	2	Miami (Fla.)	16/0
Scales, Greg (TE)	6-4/253	2	Wake Forest	*12/0
Shedden, Derrick	5-11/185	2	Oklahoma	*5/12
Tice, John (TE)	6-5/249	7	Maryland	—
Turner, Floyd	5-11/188	D6	Northwestern (La.) State	—
OFFENSIVE LINEMEN				
Brock, Stan (T)	6-6/292	10	Colorado	7/7
Derby, Glenn (T)	6-6/290	1	Wisconsin	1R
Dombrowski, Jim (T)	6-5/298	4	Virginia	16/16
Edelman, Brad (G)	6-6/270	8	Missouri	14/13
Gilbert, Daren (T)	6-5/280	5	Cal State Fullerton	11/6
Haverdick, Kevin (T)	6-5/285	D5	Western Michigan	—
Hilgenberg, Joel	6-2/252	6	Iowa	16/10
Korte, Steve (C)	6-2/260	7	Arkansas	16/16
Trapilo, Steve (G)	6-5/295	3	Boston College	9/9
Walker, Jeff (T)	6-4/289	2	Memphis State	1/0
DEFENSIVE LINEMEN				
Board, Dwayne (E)	6-5/248	10	North Carolina A&T	*3/0
Clark, Bruce (E)	6-3/275	8	Penn State	16/2
Dumbauld, Jonathan (E)	6-4/259	4	Kentucky	*12/0
Geathers, James (E)	6-7/290	5	Wichita State	16/6
Gregory, Ted (NT)	6-2/260	2	Syracuse	3/0
Martin, Wayne (E)	6-4/265	D1	Arkansas	—
Swoopes, Patrick (NT)	6-4/280	2	Mississippi State	0/0
Warren, Frank (E)	6-4/290	9	Auburn	16/12
Wilks, Jim (E)	6-5/266	9	San Diego State	16/16
LINEBACKERS				
Forde, Brian	6-2/225	2	Washington State	16/0
Griggs, David	6-3/239	D7	Virginia	—
Haynes, James	6-2/233	6	Mississippi Valley State	4/0
Jackson, Rickey	6-2/243	9	Pittsburgh	16/16
Johnson, Vaughan	6-3/235	4	North Carolina State	16/16
Johnson, Walter	6-0/241	3	Louisiana Tech	*16/0
Johnson, Will	6-4/228	2	Northeast Louisiana	*0/0
Kohlbrand, Joe	6-4/242	5	Miami (Fla.)	16/2
Leggett, Jerry	6-4/266	D9	Cal State Fullerton	—
Mills, Sam	5-9/225	4	Montclair (N.J.) State	16/16
Pless, Willie	5-10/215	CFL	Kansas	*18
Swilling, Pat	6-3/242	4	Georgia Tech	15/14
Toles, Alvin	6-1/227	5	Tennessee	11/0
DEFENSIVE BACKS				
Atkins, Gene	6-1/200	3	Florida A&M	16/6
Cook, Toi (S)	5-11/188	3	Stanford	16/0
Gibson, Antonio (S)	6-3/204	4	Cincinnati	10/10
Mack, Milton (CB)	5-11/182	3	Alcorn State	14/1
Massey, Robert (CB)	5-10/182	D2	North Carolina Central	—
Maxie, Brett (S)	6-2/194	5	Texas Southern	16/16
Mayes, Michael (CB)	5-10/182	D4	Louisiana State	—
Nicholson, Calvin (CB)	5-9/183	D11	Oregon State	—
Phillips, Kim (CB)	5-9/188	D3	North Texas State	—
Thompson, Bennie	6-0/195	CFL	Grambling State	*18
Waymer, Dave (CB)	6-1/188	10	Notre Dame	16/9
SPECIALISTS				
Andersen, Morten (K)	6-2/221	8	Michigan State	16/0
Hansen, Brian (P)	6-3/209	6	Sioux Falls (S.D.)	16/0
Winslow, George (P)	6-4/205	2	Villanova	*0/0

### OTHER FREE AGENTS IN CAMP

Dave Ammons, DL; Henry Brown, NT; Richard Cooper, DT; Pete Cukkendall, DT; Tommy Duhart, DT; Jerry Dunlap, CB; Elliott Eley, RB; Paul Frazier, RB; Jason Garrett, QB; Leroy Gause, LB; Stacy Harvey, LB; Rogie Magee, WR; Mark McGowan, G; Al Owens, WR; Duncan Parham, TE; Darrell Phillips, NT; Todd Santos, QB; Michael Simmons, DE; Julius Smith, LB; Ricky Warren, OT; Todd Wheeler, C; Deatrich Wise, DT; Clarence Woods, WR.

\*Not with New Orleans in 1988.

†Includes totals with both New Orleans and another NFL team in 1988.

IR—Injured reserve.

Key to abbreviations on page 160.

## COACHES

Head coach—Jim Mora.

Assistant coaches—

Paul Boudreau (offensive line).

Dom Capers (secondary).

Vic Fungio (linebackers).

Joe Marciano (tight ends/special teams).

Russell Paternostro (strength and conditioning).

John Pease (defensive line).

Steve Sidwell (defensive coordinator).

Jim Skipper (running backs).

Carl Smith (offensive coordinator).

Steve Walters (receivers).

## RECORDS/RANKINGS

**1988 regular-season record:** 10-6 (T2nd in NFC West); 3-3 in division; 6-6 in conference; 5-3 at home; 5-3 on road.

**1988 playoff record:** None.

**1988 team rankings:** Total offense, 9th in NFL; 16th in NFL; total defense, 7th/12th; rushing offense, 3rd/11th; rushing defense, 9th/11th; passing offense, 11th/18th; passing defense, T8th/T18th; scoring offense, T8th/T18th; scoring defense, 3rd/4th; takeaways, 11th/T19th; giveaways, 5th/T8th; turnover differential, 9th/15th; sacks, 11th/19th; sacks allowed, T1st/T3rd.

**Mora's regular-season record:** 29-18 in 3 seasons with Saints.

**Mora's postseason record:** 0-1 in playoffs with Saints.

**Team record last five years:** 41-38 (.519, ranks T13th in league in that span).

## 1989 SCHEDULE

Sept. 10	—at Dallas
Sept. 17	—at Green Bay
Sept. 24	—at Tampa Bay
Oct. 1	—Washington
Oct. 8	—at San Francisco
Oct. 15	—New York Jets
Oct. 22	—at Los Angeles Rams
Oct. 29	—Atlanta
Nov. 6	—San Francisco (Mon.)
Nov. 12	—at New England
Nov. 19	—at Atlanta
Nov. 26	—Los Angeles Rams
Dec. 3	—at Detroit
Dec. 10	—at Buffalo
Dec. 18	—Philadelphia (Mon.)
Dec. 24	—Indianapolis

## 1988 RESULTS

Sept. 4	—San Francisco	33-34
Sept. 11	—at Atlanta	29-21
Sept. 18	—at Detroit	22-14
Sept. 25	—Tampa Bay	13-9
Oct. 3	—Dallas	20-17
Oct. 9	—at San Diego	23-17
Oct. 16	—at Seattle	20-19
Oct. 23	—L.A. Raiders	20-6
Oct. 30	—L.A. Rams	10-12
Nov. 6	—at Washington	24-27
Nov. 13	—at L.A. Rams	14-10
Nov. 20	—Denver	42-0
Nov. 27	—N.Y. Giants	12-13
Dec. 4	—at Minnesota	3-45
Dec. 11	—at San Francisco	17-30
Dec. 18	—Atlanta	10-9

## 1988 LEADERS

**Scoring (kicking):** Morten Andersen, 110 pts. (32/33 PATs, 26/36 FGs).

**Scoring (touchdowns):** Lonzell Hill, 42 pts. (7 receiving); Eric Martin, 42 pts. (7 receiving).

**Passing:** Bobby Hebert, 3,156 yds. (478 att., 280 comp., 58.6%, 20 TDs, 15 int.).

**Rushing:** Dalton Hilliard, 823 yds. (4.0 avg., 5 TDs).

**Receptions:** Eric Martin, 85 (1,083 yds., 12.7 avg., 7 TDs).

**Interceptions:** Gene Atkins, 4 (42 yds., 0 TDs).

**Tackles:** Vaughan Johnson, 108 (78 solo, 30 assisted).

**Sacks:** Rickey Jackson, 7 (66 yds.); Pat Swilling, 7 (65 yds.).

**Punting:** Brian Hansen, 40.5 avg. (72 punts, 2,913 yds., 1 blocked).

**Punt returns:** Mel Gray, 12.2 avg. (25 att., 305 yds., 1 TD).

**Kickoff returns:** Gene Atkins, 21.2 avg. (20 att., 424 yds., 0 TDs).



# With new coach in the seat, 49ers seek to repeat

By IRA MILLER  
San Francisco Chronicle

One day last winter, new San Francisco 49ers Coach George Seifert and his staff were wondering what the team could do for an encore.

"We were kidding about this being a taboo subject," Seifert said, "but one thing we haven't done is win a couple of Super Bowls in a row. We have the type of team that's capable of winning it again."

For San Francisco, repeating figures to be difficult. Quarterback Joe Montana will be 33 when the season starts and his health, three years after major back surgery, is a big concern. Center Randy Cross, the last link to the pre-Bill Walsh days, retired. So did tight end John Frank, who, when he was healthy, was a solid player.

But don't feel too sorry—the 49ers still have plenty of talent around. Walsh, who now runs the team's personnel operation from the front office, believes the free agents signed since the end of last season will have more impact in 1989 than will the team's draft choices.

The biggest obstacle the 49ers face in 1989 is this: Teams simply don't win two years in a row anymore. (No champion has repeated since the 1978-79 Pittsburgh Steelers.) Two days after winning the Super Bowl, Rice was complaining that he didn't get enough recognition for his Most Valuable Player performance. That's just the kind of selfish attitude that tends to



Michael Carter is one of the league's best noseguards.

keep teams from repeating.

## COACHING

For 10 years, Walsh drew up and called all the plays, including his famous script of 25 in advance. The new offensive coordinator, Mike Holmgren, is bright and innovative but still is treading into new territory. And how much will the defense miss Seifert's hands-on approach? His juggling of personnel was largely responsible for the 49ers' success in recent years. San Francisco annually ranked near the top of the league in defense.

Seifert's successor as defensive coordinator, Bill McPherson, must take over without missing a beat.

## OFFENSE

**QUARTERBACKS**—Halfway through last season, it looked as if Montana might be on his way out. He was struggling and the team suffered because of it. Then Walsh gave him two weeks off—a rest Montana didn't want—and he came back strong, playing exceptionally well in the last six regular-season games and the playoffs. Now the question is whether that was a last hurrah, or if Montana has a few more good years left, as the quarterback believes.

Steve Young will be 28 before this season ends and is growing impatient with his backup role. He does not have Montana's skill at reading defenses, but he is an intuitive player who is capable of making plays on his own with his running skills. His 49-yard touchdown run last season in the final minutes of a game against the Minnesota Vikings was a classic.

**RUNNING BACKS**—After subpar 1986 and '87 seasons, Roger Craig had a great season in 1988 (1,502 yards rushing, an NFC-high 4.8-yard average, a team-high 76 receptions for 534 yards and 10 total touchdowns). But San Francisco still needs another running threat. Fullback Tom Rathman is used primarily as a blocker but can be a punishing runner when he gets the opportunity.

Terrence Flagler, a first-round draft

pick in 1987, is the team's fastest back, but he has shown nothing in two years (16 total yards rushing) and has had problems staying healthy. The coaches are high on Spencer Tillman, a two-year veteran free agent formerly with the Houston Oilers. But unless Craig gets hurt, Tillman will do most of his duty on special teams.

Rookie third-round pick Keith Henderson (Georgia) should compete.

**RECEIVERS**—After Rice, there are question marks. John Taylor, the other starter and the player who scored the winning touchdown in Super Bowl XXIII, was suspended for a month last season after he violated the National Football League's drug abuse policy. One more violation and he's out of the league for at least a year. The other two returnees, erstwhile backup Mike Wilson and Terry Greer, are both over 30.

The 49ers will miss Frank, a good receiver who retired to continue his medical school studies. His likely replacement at tight end is Jamie Williams, a free agent from Houston whose forte is blocking, not receiving.

The 49ers will try to develop second-round draft choice Wesley Walls, who played defense at Mississippi until his senior year.

**LINEMEN**—Jesse Sapolu, a starter at guard, moves to center to replace Cross. Jeff Bregel, a backup last year, gets the first shot at Sapolu's old job. Terry Tausch, a veteran free agent from Minnesota, also is a possibility. Steve Wallace, the starting left tackle, spent the off-season rehabbing from a broken leg suffered in the Super Bowl. If Wallace isn't ready, seven-year man Bubba Paris, who has fought weight problems his whole career, would start again.

Guard Guy McIntyre is a strong run blocker and a good enough athlete that he was used as an emergency tight end last season, even catching a touchdown pass against Atlanta. Harris Barton, a two-year starter at right tackle, is the team's best lineman, solid both as a run blocker and a pass protector.

## AT A GLANCE

**Strengths:** Joe Montana, Roger Craig and Jerry Rice constitute the best quarterback-running back-wide receiver trio in the game today. Experience tempered by youth on both lines, with pass-rushing end Charles Haley (11½ sacks in 1988) developing into one of the best in the league. The 49ers also are one of the NFL's deepest teams at cornerback.

**Weaknesses:** The 49ers will miss retired tight end John Frank and the often inspired play-calling of retired coach Bill Walsh. Craig has proven to be extremely durable, but the 49ers still must find a reliable backup.

**Key to success:** Rice must stay healthy. The offense sagged badly last season when Rice was playing on a gimpy ankle. The defense must continue to do a good job on first down, enabling the coaching staff to use its solid fleet of substitutes.

**Sure sign of trouble:** A slow start. In 1985, the last time the 49ers tried to defend their NFL title, they began the season with a 3-4 record.

**That's a fact:** Since 1981, the 49ers have a better record on the road than at home. They are 43-14-1 (.750) away and 38-21 (.644) at home. Last season, they were 6-2 on the road, 4-4 at home.

**The head coach says:** "We've been together as a team and as a staff a number of years now, and I don't visualize a great many changes, not only offensively and defensively, but in the way that we'll basically operate and what our expectations are."





## DEFENSE

**LINEMEN**—The line was good enough last year that the 49ers essentially scrapped the 3-4 defense after three games and opted for the 4-3 alignment. Charles Haley, Kevin Fagan, Larry Roberts, Dan Stubbs and Pierce Holt, all of whom have been drafted since 1986, give the 49ers depth and allow them to substitute freely. Except for Haley, an end who made the Pro Bowl as a linebacker, all the linemen can play end or tackle.

Michael Carter is one of the league's best noseguards and should be even more effective in a four-man front.

**LINEBACKERS**—Every year, it seems, the 49ers keep looking for linebackers and say that they need to upgrade the position. This year they used their No. 1 draft pick on Tennessee's Keith DeLong, who figures to be a solid, if not spectacular, NFL linebacker.

The 49ers need, but don't have, a hell-raising pass-rusher in the Lawrence Taylor-Cornelius Bennett mold. Of course, such players are rare. Michael Walter, an inside linebacker who covers a lot of ground, is the best of the group. Walter plays in almost all the team's varied defenses on the weak side.

Riki Ellison and Jim Fahnhorst split time inside on the strong side; ultimately DeLong will move in there. Ellison and Fahnhorst are strong against head-up runs but lack range. Ellison, however, has been injured much of the last two seasons.

Keena Turner is starting his 10th year on the outside, where he split time last season with rookie Bill Romanowski. Romanowski could possibly play on the inside, his position in college.

**DEFENSIVE BACKS**—With starters Tim McKyer and Don Griffin, former Pro Bowler Eric Wright, Tory Nixon, impressive youngster Chet Brooks and still developing Darryl Pollard, the 49ers have depth at cornerback. The problem is at safety, where strong safety Jeff Fuller, probably the team's best athlete, and seven-time Pro Bowler Ronnie Lott, the free safety, are backed up only by one man, Tom Holmoe.

Lott throws his body around so much that he often gets hurt, and the 49ers worry how much longer he can play. Brooks may be tried as a safety.

## SPECIAL TEAMS

The 49ers turned over their kickers last year, dropping veterans Ray Wersching and Max Runager and replacing them with two rookies: placekicker Mike Cofer and punter Barry Helton. Cofer, after a slow start, came on strong in the second half of the season. He made 16 of his last 18 field-goal attempts.

Helton never developed much consistency and finished with a disappointing 39.3-yard average, one of the worst marks among NFC qualifiers.

John Taylor led the NFL in punt returns with a 12.6-yard average and two touchdowns in 1988, but the 49ers ranked 26th in kickoff returns. The search is on for a kickoff-return man, with Tillman getting the first shot at the job. ■

## 49ERS DATA

### 1989 ROSTER

QUARTERBACKS	Ht./Wt.	NFL Exp.	College	1988 Games GP/GS
Montana, Joe	6-2/195	11	Notre Dame	14/13
Paye, John	6-3/195	1	Stanford	0/0
Sweeney, Kevin	6-0/193	3	Fresno State	*3/2
Young, Steve	6-2/200	5	Brigham Young	11/3
RUNNING BACKS	Ht./Wt.	NFL Exp.	College	1988 Games GP/GS
Bell, Jim	6-0/205	D11a	Boston College	—
Craig Roger	6-0/224	7	Nebraska	16/15
Flagler, Terrence	6-0/200	3	Clemson	3/0
Henderson, Keith (FB)	6-1/220	D3	Georgia	—
Rathman, Tom (FB)	6-1/232	4	Nebraska	16/16
Rodgers, Del	5-10/203	4	Utah	1/0
Sydney, Harry (FB)	6-0/217	3	Kansas	16/0
Tillman, Spencer	5-11/206	3	Oklahoma	*16/0
RECEIVERS	Ht./Wt.	NFL Exp.	College	1988 Games GP/GS
Barber, Mike	5-10/172	D4	Marshall	—
Greer, Terry	6-1/192	4	Alabama State	10/0
Jones, Brent (TE)	6-4/230	3	Santa Clara	11/0
Jones, Rod (TE)	6-4/245	2	Washington	*2/0
McGee, Norm	6-0/180	D11b	North Dakota	—
Murray, Walter	6-4/200	3	Hawaii	*0/0
Rice, Jerry	6-2/200	5	Mississippi Valley St.	16/16
Sherrard, Mike	6-2/187	2	UCLA	*0/0
Taylor, Gene	6-3/191	3	Fresno State	*4/0
Taylor, John	6-1/185	3	Delaware State	12/4
Turner, Daryl	6-3/194	5	Michigan State	0/0
Walls, Wesley (TE)	5-5/246	D2	Mississippi	—
Williams, Jamie (TE)	6-4/245	7	Nebraska	*16/16
Wilson, Mike	6-3/215	9	Washington State	16/11
Winfield, Earl	6-0/185	CFL	North Carolina	*18
DEFENSIVE LINEMEN	Ht./Wt.	NFL Exp.	College	1988 Games GP/GS
Barton, Harris (T)	6-4/280	3	North Carolina	16/16
Bregel, Jeff (G)	6-4/280	3	Southern California	13/0
Cochran, Mark (T)	6-5/285	2	Baylor	IR
Collie, Bruce	6-6/275	5	Texas-Arlington	15/5
McIntyre, Guy (G)	6-3/265	6	Georgia	16/12
O'Connor, Paul (G)	6-3/258	1	Miami (Fla.)	IR
Paris, Bubba (T)	6-6/306	7	Michigan	16/1
Sapola, Jesse	6-4/260	4	Hawaii	16/15
Sinclair, Andy (C)	6-3/285	D10	Stanford	—
Tausch, Terry (G)	6-5/276	8	Texas	*16/16
Thomas, Chuck	6-3/280	4	Oklahoma	16/0
Wallace, Steve (T)	6-5/276	4	Auburn	16/15
DEFENSIVE LINEMEN	Ht./Wt.	NFL Exp.	College	1988 Games GP/GS
Carter, Michael (NT)	6-2/285	6	Southern Methodist	16/16
Fagan, Kevin (E)	6-4/265	3	Miami (Fla.)	14/14
Holt, Pierce (E)	6-4/280	2	Angelo (Tex.) State	9/0
Kugler, Pete (E)	6-4/255	7	Penn State	6/1
Lilly, Kevin (NT)	6-4/265	2	Tulsa	9/2
Roberts, Larry (E)	6-3/275	4	Alabama	16/16
Stover, Jeff (E)	6-5/275	8	Oregon	7/0
Stubbs, Daniel (E)	6-4/260	2	Miami (Fla.)	16/1
Unrein, Terry (NT)	6-5/270	3	Colorado State	*0/0
LINEBACKERS	Ht./Wt.	NFL Exp.	College	1988 Games GP/GS
DeLong, Keith	6-2/235	D1	Tennessee	—
Ellison, Riki	6-2/225	7	Southern California	13/13
Fahnhorst, Jim	6-4/230	6	Minnesota	16/3
Goss, Antonio	6-3/228	D12	North Carolina	—
Hadley, Ron	6-2/240	3	Washington	3/0
Haley, Charles	6-5/230	4	James Madison	16/14
Harmon, Rudy	6-1/230	D9	LSU	—
Hendrickson, Steve	6-0/245	D6	California	—
Kennedy, Sam	6-3/235	2	San Jose State	16/0
Romanowski, Bill	6-4/231	2	Boston College	16/8
Turner, Keena	6-2/222	10	Purdue	11/8
Walter, Michael	6-3/238	7	Oregon	16/16
Washington, Chris	6-4/240	6	Iowa State	*16/1
DEFENSIVE BACKS	Ht./Wt.	NFL Exp.	College	1988 Games GP/GS
Brooks, Chet (CB)	5-11/191	2	Texas A&M	10/0
Fuller, Jeff (S)	6-2/216	6	Texas A&M	16/16
Griffin, Don (CB)	6-0/176	4	Middle Tennessee State	10/6
Holmoe, Tom (S)	6-2/195	6	Brigham Young	16/4
Jackson, Johnny (S)	6-1/204	D5	Houston	—
Lott, Ronnie (S)	6-0/200	9	Southern California	13/12
McKyer, Tim (CB)	6-0/174	4	Texas-Arlington	16/16
Nixon, Tory (CB)	5-11/186	5	San Diego State	6/0
Pollard, Darryl (CB)	5-11/187	3	Weber State	14/0
Williams, Kevin (CB)	5-10/174	3	Iowa State	*5/0
Wright, Eric (CB)	6-1/185	8	Missouri	15/10
SPECIALISTS	Ht./Wt.	NFL Exp.	College	1988 Games GP/GS
Cofer, Mike (K)	6-1/190	2	North Carolina State	16/0
Harper, Glenn (P)	5-11/173	CFL	Washington State	*18
Helton, Barry (P)	6-3/205	2	Colorado	15/0
Morales, Marco (K)	6-0/190	1	San Diego State	*0/0

### OTHER FREE AGENTS IN CAMP

Steve Berg, DE; Jon Burman, OT; Willie Cannon, RB; Larry Clarkson, T; Dave Cullity, T; Matt Devine, LB; Vince Evans, RB; Lonnie Finch, DB; Jeff Glasser, DE; Dave Haight, NT; Robert Harper, LB; Eric Hickerson, S; John Hunter, LB; Guy Liggins, WR; Art Mallone, CB; Tika Manu, DE; Brent Napierkowski, DL; Mike Wolfe, G.

\*Not with San Francisco in 1988.

IR—Injured reserve.

Key to abbreviations on page 160.

### COACHES

Head coach—George Seifert.

Assistant coaches—

Jerry Attaway (conditioning coordinator).

Tommy Hart (defensive line).

Mike Holmgren (quarterbacks).

Al Lavan (running backs).

Sherman Lewis (wide receivers).

John Marshall (defensive line).

Bobb McKittrick (offensive line).

Bill McPherson (defensive coordinator).

Ray Rhodes (defensive backs).

Lynn Stiles (tight ends).

Bob Zeman (linebackers).

### RECORDS/RANKINGS

1988 regular-season record: 10-6 (1st in NFC West); 4-2 in division; 8-4 in conference; 4-4 at home; 6-2 on road.

1988 playoff record: Defeated Minnesota, 34-9, in NFC semifinals; defeated Chicago, 28-3, in NFC championship; defeated Cincinnati, 20-16, in Super Bowl.

1988 team rankings: total offense, 1st in NFC; 2nd in NFL; total defense, 3rd/3rd; rushing offense, 1st/2nd; rushing defense, 3rd/3rd; passing offense, 7th/10th; passing defense, 3rd/8th; scoring offense, 4th/7th; scoring defense, 5th/8th; takeaways, T4th/T7th; giveaways, T1st/T1st; turnover differential, 3rd/4th; sacks, T7th/T9th; sacks allowed, T8th/T22nd.

Seifert's regular-season record: First year as NFL head coach.

Team record last five years: 58-20-1 (.741, ranks 2nd in league in that span).

### 1989 SCHEDULE

Sept. 10	—at Indianapolis
Sept. 17	—at Tampa Bay
Sept. 24	—at Philadelphia
Oct. 1	—Los Angeles Rams
Oct. 8	—New Orleans
Oct. 15	—at Dallas
Oct. 22	—New England
Oct. 29	—at New York Jets
Nov. 6	—at New Orleans (Mon.)
Nov. 12	—Atlanta
Nov. 19	—Green Bay
Nov. 27	—New York Giants (Mon.)
Dec. 3	—at Atlanta
Dec. 11	—at Los Angeles Rams (Mon.)
Dec. 17	—Buffalo
Dec. 24	—Chicago

### 1988 RESULTS

Sept. 4	—at New Orleans	34-33
Sept. 11	—at N.Y. Giants	20-17
Sept. 18	—Atlanta	17-34
Sept. 25	—at Seattle	38-7
Oct. 2	—Detroit	20-13
Oct. 9	—Denver (OT)	13-16
Oct. 16	—at L.A. Rams	24-21
Oct. 24	—at Chicago	9-10
Oct. 30	—Minnesota	24-21
Nov. 6	—at Phoenix	23-24
Nov. 13	—L.A. Raiders	3-9
Nov. 21	—Washington	37-21
Nov. 27	—at San Diego	48-10
Dec. 4	—at Atlanta	13-3
Dec. 11	—New Orleans	30-17
Dec. 18	—L.A. Rams	16-38

### 1988 LEADERS

Scoring (kicking): Mike Cofer, 121 pts. (40/41 PATs, 27/38 FGs).

Scoring (touchdowns): Roger Craig, 60 pts. (9 rushing, 1 receiving); Jerry Rice, 60 pts. (1 rushing, 9 receiving).

Passing: Joe Montana, 2,981 yds. (397 att., 238 comp., 59.9%, 18 TDs, 10 int.).

Rushing: Roger Craig, 1,502 yds. (4.8 avg., 9 TDs).

Receptions: Roger Craig, 76 (534 yds., 7.0 avg., 1 TD).

Interceptions: Tim McKyer, 7 (11 yds., 0 TDs).

Tackles: Michael Walter, 97 (60 solo, 37 assisted).

Sacks: Charles Haley, 11½ (77 yds.).

Punting: Barry Helton, 39.3 avg. (78 punts, 3,069 yds., 1 blocked).

Punt returns: John Taylor, 12.6 avg. (44 att., 556 yds., 2 TDs).

Kickoff returns: Doug DuBose, 19.0 avg. (32 att., 608 yds., 0 TDs).



# Close isn't good enough for the Bears anymore

By DAN POMPEI  
Chicago Sun-Times

**H**eading into the 1989 season, Mike Ditka's motto for the Chicago Bears is, "Close isn't good enough." Funny, when the Bears got close last season by making it to the NFC championship game, the feeling was, "Close is more than good enough."

The Bears got close in 1988 despite a string of setbacks that included Ditka's heart attack, a drug controversy and more injuries than some hospitals handle in a decade. The Bears overachieved with a delicate, extraordinary balance of coaching, young players, old players, big plays and controversies. Achieving that kind of balance two years in a row is difficult.

The rest of the NFC Central has improved and the schedule outside the division has gotten tougher. But challenges often have brought out the best in this team.

"We've been wearing that white hat for a while," said Ditka, whose team will seek its sixth straight division title this year. "We've got to put the black hat on and show people we mean business again."

## COACHING

With the elevation of Greg Landry to offensive coordinator, Ditka appears willing to delegate more authority than he has in the past. He's less involved with specifics, more involved with overseeing and more relaxed than ever before.

Judging talent always has been Ditka's strong suit, but he took some gambles in the off-season by telling linebacker Otis Wilson and cornerback Mike Richardson they weren't needed anymore. And more veterans could be on the way out.

## OFFENSE

**QUARTERBACKS**—The starter probably

## AT A GLANCE

**Strengths:** The inside defensive triangle of tackles Steve McMichael and Dan Hampton and middle linebacker Mike Singletary. Pass rusher Richard Dent and halfback Neal Anderson.

**Weaknesses:** Uncertainty at quarterback. The passing game and return teams must improve.

**Key to success:** Rookies Trace Armstrong and Donnell Woolford must produce, and those who stepped up last season can't fall back.

**Sure sign of trouble:** If everybody's happy.

**That's a fact:** Over the last five seasons the Bears have the best record in the NFL (62-17) and five NFC Central titles.

**The head coach says:** "Last year we weren't good enough. They don't give any accolades to runners-up. It was a good accomplishment that we made it to the NFC championship game, but we didn't attain our goal. It's going to take more work, better play overall—it's that simple."



*Mike Tomczak was the best of the Bears' quarterbacks last year.*

won't be determined until training camp. Jim McMahon and Mike Tomczak are both listed as starters for now, with third-year man Jim Harbaugh and rookie Brent Snyder in reserve.

But just because McMahon has survived a flurry of trade rumors doesn't mean he can survive a challenge from Tomczak. A trade is still possible, particularly if Tomczak beats him out and McMahon can't adjust to being a backup. Although their quarterback ratings were nearly identical (McMahon finished at 76.0, Tomczak 75.4), Tomczak was the better of the two last season. He's younger, better conditioned, more mobile and has better arm strength. What he doesn't have are McMahon's experience and savvy. And the only way Tomczak can acquire experience and savvy is to play.

**RUNNING BACKS**—While the Chicago running game was fine by most standards last season—the Bears finished with the third-best rushing offense in the National Football League—the team continues to search for ways to improve.

The first thing the coaching staff did was make second-year man Brad Muster the starting fullback ahead of veteran Matt Suhey. Muster, however, is not a traditional Bears-style fullback, and because of it the Bears struggled to find a way to use him last season. The coaches have studied films of Muster's college games at Stanford to get some ideas about how best

to use him.

Although Muster caught some heat last year for not having a bigger impact as a rookie, he led all Chicago running backs with an average of 4.5 yards per carry.

The Bears are loaded at halfback with Pro Bowler Neal Anderson, a breakaway threat, and reserve Thomas Sanders. Although Anderson started all 16 games, the coaches were not hesitant to use Sanders, a strategy that helped keep both players fresh.

More help could be on the way from fifth-round draft choice Mark Green (Notre Dame) or ninth-round pick Byron Sanders (Northwestern).

**RECEIVERS**—The Bears lack a deep threat but have quality and depth. All five of their wide receivers contributed last season and figure to do the same in 1989.

Dennis Gentry (33 catches) and Ron Morris (28) were the closest things the Bears had to big-play receivers. While neither has world-class speed, both can beat cornerbacks and get open.

Dennis McKinnon (45 receptions) was the Bears' most consistent receiver last season, making the tough, important catches and throwing some pretty good blocks, too. Although Wendell Davis caught only 15 passes as a rookie, he's a tough kid who showed as much potential as any Chicago receiver.

More production out of the tight end position is a necessity. Second-year man James Thornton proved to be a fine blocker but needs more passes thrown his way.

**LINEMEN**—Ditka thinks his offensive line is one of the best in the league. The unit has three former Pro Bowlers in center Jay Hilgenberg, guard Mark Bortz and tackle Jim Covert, while another guard, Tom Thayer, was an alternate Pro Bowler two years ago. The other starter, tackle Keith Van Horne, is coming off the best season of his eight-year career.

After struggling with a back injury most of last season, Covert must regain his Pro Bowl form. All five starters a year ago should keep their jobs unless talented reserve tackle/guard John Wojciechowski can win a starting berth in training camp.

## DEFENSE

**LINEMEN**—Once one of the best defensive lines in the game, this unit began to show some wear and tear by the end of last season. The line is likely to be good again in '89 but will have a slightly different look.

One fresh face the Bears are counting on is first-round draft choice Trace Armstrong, a defensive end from Florida. Armstrong has a job awaiting him at left end, a spot occupied by Al Harris before the nine-year vet was left unprotected (and subsequently signed by Philadelphia) in the free-agent sweepstakes last spring. If Armstrong isn't ready, Sean Smith will keep the position warm until he is. Smith filled in for right end Richard Dent when Dent fractured an ankle late



last season.

A complete recovery by Dent, considered by Ditka to be the best pass rusher in the game, is critical. Dent had 10½ sacks in 13 games last season.

The fate of the Bears could hinge on the hinges of veteran tackles Dan Hampton and Steve McMichael, who combined for 21 sacks a year ago. Both underwent knee surgery in the off-season and both are as valuable to the success of this team as any other players.

Ditka would like to spell Hampton and McMichael with William Perry, who is being moved from end to tackle. Perry missed most of last season with a broken arm and didn't miss many meals during his rehabilitation. His weight continues to be a major concern for the coaching staff, and it could even force the Bears to release him before the season.

**LINEBACKERS**—Mike Singletary, the prototype NFL middle linebacker, led the Bears with 170 tackles last season and is the glue that holds the defense together. Ron Rivera was better than average as Wilber Marshall's replacement on the outside and, although Jim Morrissey did everything asked of him in his first year as a starter, the Bear coaches still question his durability. He'll be pushed by a pack of hungry reserves, including Mickey Pruitt, Dante Jones, Troy Johnson and second-round draft choice John Roper of Texas A&M.

Ditka wants an outside linebacker with big-play potential; he might find one in Roper.

**DEFENSIVE BACKS**—The Bears may be vulnerable here. Excluding strong safety Dave Duerson and cornerback Vestee Jackson, there are some serious questions. Chicago drafted Clemson's Donnell Woolford in the first round to take Richardson's old cornerback spot. He'll have to beat out second-year man Lemuel Stinson.

The Bears hope free safety Shaun Gayle is able to return from a fractured vertebrae in his neck. If he can't, the job is up in the air for at least four candidates. Maurice Douglass started nine games at the position last season but seems better equipped to play strong safety or cornerback. The other possibilities are second-year men David Tate and Todd Krumm and fourth-round draft choice Markus Paul (Syracuse). This unit was largely responsible for producing 35 turnovers last season, and the trend must continue for the Bears to remain on a championship level.

## SPECIAL TEAMS

The Bears have assembled an army of punters since Bryan Wagner took the free-agent route to Cleveland. Ditka hopes at least one adequate punter will emerge.

Kevin Butler was successful on 15 of 19 field-goal attempts last year and has firmly established himself as one of the league's best clutch kickers. The return and coverage teams were lacking last season, and the coaching staff tried to alleviate the problem in the off-season. Look for Woolford to become the new kick-return man. ■

# BEARS DATA

## 1989 ROSTER

QUARTERBACKS	Ht./Wt.	NFL Exp.	College	1988 Games GP/GS
Harbaugh, Jim	6-3/204	3	Michigan	10/2
McMahon, Jim	6-1/198	8	Brigham Young	9/9
Snyder, Brent	6-3/225	D7b	Utah State	—
Tomczak, Mike	6-1/198	5	Ohio State	14/5
RUNNING BACKS	Ht./Wt.	NFL Exp.	College	1988 Games GP/GS
Anderson, Neal	5-11/210	4	Florida	16/16
Green, Mark	5-11/184	D5a	Notre Dame	—
Muster, Brad (FB)	6-3/231	2	Stanford	16/0
Sanders, Byron	5-7/190	D9b	Northwestern	—
Sanders, Thomas	5-11/203	5	Texas A&M	16/0
Stewart, Curtis	5-11/208	1	Auburn	IR
Suhey, Matt (FB)	5-11/213	10	Penn State	16/16
RECEIVERS	Ht./Wt.	NFL Exp.	College	1988 Games GP/GS
Benson, Cliff (TE)	6-4/238	5	Purdue	7/0
Boso, Cap (TE)	6-3/240	3	Illinois	6/0
Davis, Wendell	5-11/188	2	Louisiana State	16/0
Gentry, Dennis	5-8/180	8	Baylor	16/16
Kozlowski, Glen	6-1/205	3	Brigham Young	16/0
McKinnon, Dennis	6-1/177	6	Florida State	15/15
Millikan, Todd (TE)	6-2/238	D10a	Nebraska	—
Morris, Ron	6-1/195	3	Southern Methodist	16/1
Thornton, James (TE)	6-2/242	2	Cal St. Fullerton	16/12
Weygand, Freddie	5-11/187	D12a	Auburn	—
OFFENSIVE LINEMEN	Ht./Wt.	NFL Exp.	College	1988 Games GP/GS
Adickes, John (C)	6-3/264	3	Baylor	16/0
Becker, Kurt (G)	6-5/269	8	Michigan	16/0
Bortz, Mark (G)	6-6/272	7	Iowa	16/16
Covert, Jim (T)	6-4/278	7	Pittsburgh	9/8
Dyko, Chris (T)	6-6/305	D8b	Washington State	—
Fontenot, Jerry (G)	6-3/272	D3	Texas A&M	—
Hilgenberg, Jay (C)	6-3/260	9	Iowa	16/16
Phillips, Anthony (G)	6-1/275	D12b	Oklahoma	—
Thayer, Tom (G)	6-4/270	5	Notre Dame	16/16
Van Horne, Keith (T)	6-6/283	9	Southern California	15/14
Wojciechowski, John (G)	6-4/270	3	Michigan State	16/10
Zawatsky, Dave (T)	6-4/274	D2b	California	—
DEFENSIVE LINEMEN	Ht./Wt.	NFL Exp.	College	1988 Games GP/GS
Armstrong, Trace (E)	6-4/259	D1b	Florida	—
Chapura, Dick (T)	6-3/275	2	Missouri	15/0
Dent, Richard (E)	6-5/268	7	Tennessee State	13/12
Hampton, Dan (E)	6-5/274	11	Arkansas	16/16
McMichael, Steve (T)	6-2/268	10	Texas	16/16
Nelms, Joe (T)	6-4/262	D11a	California	—
Perry, William (T)	6-2/320	5	Clemson	3/3
Shannon, John (T)	6-3/269	2	Kentucky	13/0
Smith, Sean (T)	6-4/290	3	Grambling State	9/3
Woods, Tony (T)	6-4/274	D8a	Oklahoma	—
LINEBACKERS	Ht./Wt.	NFL Exp.	College	1988 Games GP/GS
Gilbert, Greg	6-1/216	D5b	Alabama	—
Harper, LaSalle	6-0/226	D9a	Arkansas	—
Johnson, Troy	6-0/236	2	Oklahoma	16/1
Jones, Dante	6-1/236	2	Oklahoma	15/1
Morrissey, Jim	6-3/227	5	Michigan State	11/11
Rivera, Ron	6-3/240	6	California	16/16
Roper, John	6-1/228	D2a	Texas A&M	—
Singletary, Mike	6-0/230	9	Baylor	16/16
DEFENSIVE BACKS	Ht./Wt.	NFL Exp.	College	1988 Games GP/GS
Brothers, Richard (S)	5-10/201	D7a	Arkansas	—
Douglass, Maurice	5-11/200	4	Kentucky	15/9
Duerson, Dave (S)	6-1/212	7	Notre Dame	15/15
Gayle, Shaun (S)	5-11/194	6	Ohio State	4/4
Jackson, Vestee (CB)	6-0/186	4	Washington	16/16
Krumm, Todd (S)	6-0/189	2	Michigan State	15/0
Lynch, Lorenzo	5-9/199	3	Cal St. Sacramento	9/0
Paul, Markus (S)	6-2/199	D4	Syracuse	14/3
Pruitt, Mickey (S)	6-1/206	2	Colorado	15/1
Stinson, Lemuel	5-9/159	2	Texas Tech	—
Streeter, George (S)	6-1/217	D11b	Notre Dame	—
Tate, David	6-0/177	2	Colorado	16/4
Woolford, Donnell (CB)	5-9/187	D1a	Clemson	—
SPECIALISTS	Ht./Wt.	NFL Exp.	College	1988 Games GP/GS
Butler, Kevin (K)	6-1/204	5	Georgia	16/0
Criswell, Ray (P)	6-0/195	3	Florida	16/0
McCabe, Mike (P)	6-1/205	R	Illinois State	—
Robison, Doug (P)	6-4/217	1	Stanford	0/0

**OTHER FREE AGENTS IN CAMP**  
Sam Archer, WR; Alex Armenteros, DB; Bryan Bero, RB; John Budde, DE; Tony Buford, WR; James Coley, TE; Matt Gurley, RB; Eric Hoffman, LB; Mike Husar, G; Steve Hyche, LB; John Kropke, DT; Garrett Limbrick, RB; Randy Marriott, WR; Steve O'Malley, DT; Pat Ray, DB; Don Schrader, G; Mike Sellar, WR; Chad Sydnor, DB; Tim Waddle, WR.

■ Not with Chicago in 1988.  
IR—Injured reserve.  
Key to abbreviations on page 160.

## COACHES

**Head coach**—Mike Ditka.  
**Assistant coaches**—  
Jim Dooley (research and quality control).  
Ed Hughes (offensive assistant).  
Steve Kazar (special teams/tight ends).  
Greg Landry (offensive coordinator).  
John LaRue (defensive backs).  
John Levrva (defensive line).  
Dave McGinnis (linebackers).  
Johnny Roland (running backs).  
Dick Stanfel (offensive line).  
Vince Tobin (defensive coordinator).

## RECORDS/RANKINGS

**1988 regular-season record:** 12-4 (1st in NFC Central); 6-2 in division; 9-3 in conference; 7-1 at home; 5-3 on road.

**1988 playoff record:** Defeated Philadelphia, 20-12, in NFC semifinals; lost to San Francisco, 28-3, in NFC championship.

**1988 team rankings:** total offense, 8th in NFL; 11th in AFC; total defense, 2nd/2nd; rushing offense, 2nd/3rd; rushing defense, 1st/1st; passing offense, 12th/20th; passing defense, 4th/9th; scoring offense, 18th/18th; scoring defense, 1st/1st; takeaways, 8th/12th; giveaways, 77th/115th; turnover differential, 77th/112th; sacks, 15th/17th; sacks allowed, 11st/13rd.

**Ditka's regular-season record:** 71-31 in 7 seasons with Bears.

**Ditka's postseason record:** 5-4 in playoffs with Bears (1-0 in Super Bowl).

**Team record last five years:** 62-17 (.785, ranks 1st in league in that span).

## 1989 SCHEDULE

Sept. 10—Cincinnati  
Sept. 17—Minnesota  
Sept. 24—at Detroit  
Oct. 2—Philadelphia (Mon.)  
Oct. 8—at Tampa Bay  
Oct. 15—Houston  
Oct. 23—at Cleveland (Mon.)  
Oct. 29—Los Angeles Rams  
Nov. 5—at Green Bay  
Nov. 12—at Pittsburgh  
Nov. 19—Tampa Bay  
Nov. 26—at Washington  
Dec. 3—at Minnesota  
Dec. 10—Detroit  
Dec. 17—Green Bay  
Dec. 24—at San Francisco

## 1988 RESULTS

Sept. 4—Miami 34-7  
Sept. 11—at Indianapolis 17-13  
Sept. 18—Minnesota 7-31  
Sept. 25—at Green Bay 24-6  
Oct. 2—Buffalo 24-3  
Oct. 9—at Detroit 24-7  
Oct. 16—Dallas 17-9  
Oct. 24—San Francisco 10-7  
Oct. 30—at New England 7-30  
Nov. 6—Tampa Bay 28-10  
Nov. 13—at Washington 34-14  
Nov. 20—at Tampa Bay 27-15  
Nov. 27—Green Bay 16-0  
Dec. 5—at L.A. Rams 3-23  
Dec. 11—Detroit 13-12  
Dec. 19—at Minnesota 27-28

## 1988 LEADERS

**Scoring (kicking):** Kevin Butler, 82 pts. (37/38 PATs, 15/19 FGs).  
**Scoring (touchdowns):** Neal Anderson, 72 pts. (12 rushing).

**Passing:** Jim McMahon, 1,346 yds. (192 att., 114 comp., 59.4%, 6 TDs, 7 int.).  
**Rushing:** Neal Anderson, 1,106 yds. (4.4 avg., 12 TDs).

**Receptions:** Dennis McKinnon, 45 (704 yds., 15.6 avg., 3 TDs).  
**Interceptions:** Vestee Jackson, 8 (94 yds., 0 TDs).

**Tackles:** Mike Singletary, 170 (89 solo, 81 assisted).

**Sacks:** Steve McMichael, 11½ (95 yds.).

**Punting:** Bryan Wagner, 41.5 avg. (79 punts, 3,282 yds., 0 blocked).

**Punt returns:** Dennis McKinnon, 8.1 avg. (34 att., 277 yds., 0 TDs).

**Kickoff returns:** Dennis Gentry, 21.4 avg. (27 att., 578 yds., 0 TDs).



# Lions will stretch their new offense to the limit

By TOM KOWALSKI  
Oakland Press

**S**ince Detroit Lions fans have been stretching (and yawning) for years now, the team will join the act and do some stretching of its own in 1989.

With their new silver stretch offense, the Lions hope to be the sleeper of the National Football League season. Are they just dreaming?

Coach Wayne Fontes has assembled a solid coaching staff, including run-and-shoot wizard Mouse Davis. The offense will consist of a four-wide receiver set and a single back, that player being 1988 Heisman Trophy winner Barry Sanders. The Lions also have acquired several speedy receivers for what they hope will be an exciting, high-powered offense.

"This team's biggest problem was a lack of speed. We tried to correct that," said Fontes, who directed the Lions to two wins in their final five games last year after replacing the fired Darryl Rogers. "We need to stretch defenses and use the entire field."

Fontes also is hoping the new plan of attack will give his defense a chance to rest. Detroit had the NFL's most inept offense last season, a unit that ran 151 fewer plays from scrimmage than the defense defended against—a difference of two full games.

The stretch offense may work, but it will take some time before Detroit finds all the players it needs to execute it.

## COACHING

Almost half of Detroit's assistant coaches have head coaching experience at either the major college or pro levels. The offensive assistants—Davis, June Jones, Dave Levy and Jerry Wampfler—all have backgrounds in the passing game. Fontes said he's committed to the stretch offense, but he won't appoint an offensive coordinator until the season begins. The fact that he hasn't already named Davis to the job is puzzling.

## AT A GLANCE

**Strengths:** Barry Sanders, the line-backing corps and the kicking game.

**Weaknesses:** Lack of depth, a poor pass rush and an inability to cover receivers one on one.

**Key to success:** The quarterback. Whoever it is, he must adapt quickly to the stretch offense or the whole scheme will fall apart.

**Sure sign of trouble:** If the coaching staff grows impatient and starts switching quarterbacks early and often.

**That's a fact:** Detroit hasn't beaten a team with a winning record (at the end of the season) in 46 straight games.

**The head coach says:** "I agree with our owner (William Clay Ford). The only thing worse than losing is to lose and be boring. We're going to throw the ball and we're going to put the ball in Barry's hands. We're going to be exciting to watch."



*Bennie Blades showed Pro Bowl ability as a rookie strong safety last year.*

## OFFENSE

**QUARTERBACKS**—The drafting of Southern California's Rodney Peete last spring creates immediate controversy. Detroit already had three veterans—Eric Hipple, Rusty Hilger and Chuck Long—on the roster.

Hipple and Hilger are adequate, but neither seems capable of getting a team into the playoffs. Long, a former No. 1 draft choice, has not set the world on fire in his three NFL campaigns. But the Lions aren't convinced he has been given the individual coaching he needs. He'll get that coaching this season, although he won't throw until the beginning of training camp after having off-season elbow surgery.

If Peete—who slipped into the sixth round of the draft after being projected as a possible first- or second-rounder—is good enough to make this team, he is a definite contender to start. The battle for the starting job will likely come down to Long and Hipple, with Peete waiting in the wings.

**RUNNING BACKS**—It's no surprise that the Lions used the third pick in the draft on Sanders, who won the Heisman last season as a junior at Oklahoma State. If you combine the rushing yardage total of James Jones two years ago (342) with the total compiled by Garry James last year (552), you'd still be 106 yards short of the 1,000-yard mark. And Jones and James were Detroit's leading rushers those two seasons. The Lions haven't had a 100-yard rushing performance in 41 games.

**RECEIVERS**—As a unit, the wide receivers in 1988 were slow. That's why the team scoured the unprotected free-agency list and also drafted a couple of receivers, including Virginia's John Ford in the second round. The Lions also have been working out several speedy free agents, many of whom were successful in the United States Football League. Six-year veteran Pete Mandley led all Detroit receivers with 44 catches a year ago, the lowest team-leading figure in the NFC. No other Lion wideout caught more than 22.

It's clear that many players who caught passes for the Lions in 1988 won't be around in '89. In the stretch offense, the most important ingredient for a receiver is speed, and many of the holdovers are the possession-type receivers.

**LINEMEN**—The line was a big disappointment last season. With tackles like Harvey Salem and Lomas Brown, youngsters like Kevin Glover and Joe Milinichik at guard and steady Steve Mott at center, the Lions were expected to be solid up front. They weren't.

The line allowed 52 sacks a year ago, the third-highest total in the league. Although as a group they are good at pass blocking, they are poor at run blocking, one more reason Fontes opted to go with the stretch offense this year.

But despite their disappointment in the line's play in 1988, the Lions drafted just two offensive linemen last spring and signed just two in the free-agency period.

## DEFENSE

**LINEMEN**—The Lions have been plagued by poor defensive line play for years, and last season was no exception. Although they recorded 47 sacks—the third-highest figure in the league—the Lions were mediocre against the run. And things got worse when a serious Achilles tendon injury sidelined key reserve Curtis Green for the final five games.

Nose tackle Jerry Ball, entering his third year, has been steadily improving and gives Detroit strength in the middle. Ends Keith Ferguson and Eric Williams, however, haven't been able to apply a pass rush from the outside.

The Lions hope that fifth-round pick Lawrence Pete (Nebraska), eighth-round pick Chris Parker (West Virginia) or ninth-round choice Derek MacCready (Ohio State) can make immediate contributions on the line. If they can't, the Lions are in trouble. Their top three line reserves last year—ends Gary Hadd and



Tom Strauthers and nose tackle Dan Sa-leaumua—were lost to free agency.

**LINEBACKERS**—This is a strength. Outside linebacker Mike Cofer had 12 sacks and went to his first Pro Bowl last year, while Jimmy Williams and George Jamison will battle for a starting spot on the other side. The Lions can't lose either way.

Chris Spielman and Dennis Gibson man the inside and have strong backups in Toby Caston and Victor Jones, both acquired as unprotected free agents. Spielman set a team record with 153 tackles and was the team's only rookie to start all 16 games. Gibson had 116 tackles, second only to Spielman.

The linebackers are often hampered by the ineffective line. Cofer will likely become a down lineman on obvious passing downs in an effort to give the Lions some semblance of a pass rush.

**DEFENSIVE BACKS**—This unit's effectiveness also is curtailed by the lack of a pass rush. Bennie Blades showed Pro Bowl ability as a rookie strong safety. Free safety Devon Mitchell played well last season but still is trying to return from a serious knee injury and regain his rookie form of three years ago.

Veterans Bruce McNorton and Jerry Holmes each started 16 games at cornerback a year ago and will battle with free agent Willie Tullis to keep their jobs.

Overall, the Lions have a below-average secondary. They intercepted just 15 passes in 1988; only two other NFL teams had fewer. Detroit drafted two defensive backs last spring—Baylor's Ray Crockett (fourth round) and Northern Michigan's Jerry Woods (seventh). If either player shows ability, he'll play a lot.

## SPECIAL TEAMS

The Lions may have the best placekicker-punter duo in football in Ed Murray, a former Pro Bowler, and Jim Arnold, a Pro Bowl participant the last two seasons.

Murray was the only kicker last season to connect on better than 90 percent of his field-goal attempts (20 of 21, 95.2 percent), while Arnold had the highest average (42.4 yards) in the NFC. Ironically, new special teams coach Frank Gansz was with Kansas City in 1986 when Arnold was cut by the Chiefs.

With Gansz's fundamental and fanatical approach to special teams, the Lions should improve—especially in the area of blocked kicks. Detroit's last blocked field goal was in 1986 and last blocked punt in '87.

The Lions also haven't returned a punt for a touchdown in three years or a kick-off for a TD in seven. That might change this year with the acquisition of both Bobby Joe Edmonds and Mel Gray via free agency. Edmonds averaged 11.3 yards in punt returns and 22.1 yards in kickoff returns for Seattle the last three seasons, while Gray averaged 13.4 in punt returns and 23.4 in kickoff returns the last three years in New Orleans. Gray has returned one punt and one kickoff for touchdowns in his NFL career, while Edmonds has one punt return touchdown to his credit. ■

# LIONS DATA

## 1989 ROSTER

QUARTERBACKS	Ht./Wt.	NFL Exp.	College	1988 Games GP/GS
Gagliano, Bob	6-3/205	5	Utah State	0/0
Hilger, Rusty	6-4/205	5	Oklahoma State	11/9
Hipple, Eric	6-2/211	9	Utah State	5/0
Long, Chuck	6-4/221	4	Iowa	7/7
Peete, Rodney	6-0/195	D6	Southern California	—
RUNNING BACKS				
Beatty, Doug	6-1/221	1	Appalachian State	IR
Edmonds, Bobby Joe	5-11/186	4	Arkansas	16/0
Gray, Mel	5-9/166	4	Purdue	14/0
James, Garry	5-10/214	4	Louisiana State	16/16
Jones, James (FB)	6-2/230	7	Florida	14/14
Morris, Randall	6-0/200	6	Tennessee	12/0
Paige, Tony (FB)	5-10/235	6	Virginia Tech	16/2
Painter, Carl	5-9/185	2	Hampton (Va.) Institute	12/0
Sanders, Barry	5-8/203	D1	Oklahoma State	—
Williams, Scott (FB)	6-2/234	4	Georgia	11/0
RECEIVERS				
Carter, Pat (TE)	6-4/250	2	Florida State	15/14
Chadwick, Jeff	6-3/190	7	Grand Valley St. (Mich.)	10/8
Clark, Robert	5-11/175	2	North Carolina Central	16/0
Ford, John	6-1/204	D2	Virginia	—
Johnson, Kelley (WR)	5-8/155	2	Colorado	0/0
Johnson, Richard (WR)	5-9/195	1	Colorado	0/0
Lee, Gary	6-1/201	3	Georgia Tech	14/6
Lewis, Mark (TE)	6-2/250	3	Texas A&M	3/3
Mandley, Pete	5-10/195	6	Northern Arizona	15/14
McDonald, Keith	5-7/159	2	San Jose State	0/0
Mobley, Stacey (WR)	5-8/170	2	San Jose State	0/0
Nichols, Mark	6-2/208	6	San Jose State	0/0
Phillips, Jason	5-7/166	D10	Houston	—
Powell, Jeff (WR)	5-10/185	1	Tennessee	0/0
Roundtree, Ray	6-0/182	2	Penn State	4/0
Rubick, Rob (TE)	6-3/234	8	Grand Valley St. (Mich.)	15/1
Starring, Stephen	5-10/172	7	McNeese State	12/0
OFFENSIVE LINEMEN				
Andolsek, Eric (G)	6-2/277	2	Louisiana State	13/0
Baack, Steve (G)	6-4/265	5	Oregon	IR
Barrows, Scott	6-3/280	4	West Virginia	16/1
Brown, Lomas (T)	6-4/275	5	Florida	16/16
Dallafor, Ken (G)	6-4/278	5	Minnesota	13/13
Gambol, Chris (T)	6-6/303	2	Iowa	12/0
Glover, Kevin	6-2/275	5	Maryland	16/16
Milnichik, Joe	6-5/275	3	North Carolina State	15/15
Mott, Steve (C)	6-3/265	7	Alabama	16/16
Salem, Harvey	6-6/285	7	California	16/16
Sanders, Eric	6-7/280	9	Nevada-Reno	16/0
Singer, Curt (T)	6-5/279	3	Tennessee	6/0
Utley, Mike (G-T)	6-6/288	D3	Washington State	—
DEFENSIVE LINEMEN				
Baack, Steve (NT)	6-4/265	6	Oregon	IR
Baldwin, Tom (T)	6-4/270	5	Tulsa	16/2
Ball, Jerry (NT)	6-1/292	3	Southern Methodist	16/16
Cribbs, James (E)	6-3/269	D12	Memphis State	—
Ferguson, Keith (E)	6-5/260	9	Ohio State	14/14
Green, Curtis	6-3/270	9	Alabama State	11/0
Hamilton, Steve	6-4/270	5	East Carolina	15/0
MacCreedy, Derek (E)	6-4/266	D9	Ohio State	—
Parker, Chris (T)	6-4/285	D8	West Virginia	—
Pete, Lawrence (T)	6-0/286	D5	Nebraska	—
Rogers, Reggie (E)	6-6/280	3	Washington	5/2
Williams, Eric (E)	6-4/286	6	Washington State	16/16
LINEBACKERS				
Caston, Toby	6-1/240	3	Louisiana State	16/0
Cofer, Michael	6-5/245	7	Tennessee	16/16
Gibson, Dennis	6-2/240	3	Iowa State	16/16
Hunt, Byron	6-5/242	8	Southern Methodist	2/0
Jamison, George	6-1/226	3	Cincinnati	16/11
Jones, Victor	6-2/245	2	Virginia Tech	8/0
Karpinski, Keith	6-2/255	D11	Penn State	—
Lockett, Danny	6-2/250	3	Arizona	16/0
Robinson, Shelton	6-2/236	8	North Carolina	12/0
Spielman, Chris	6-0/247	2	Ohio State	16/16
Williams, Jimmy	6-3/230	8	Nebraska	5/5
DEFENSIVE BACKS				
Blades, Bennie (S)	6-1/221	2	Miami (Fla.)	15/14
Cherry, Raphael (S)	6-0/190	4	Hawaii	16/3
Crockett, Ray	5-9/178	D4	Baylor	—
Griffin, James (S)	6-2/203	7	Middle Tennessee State	16/6
Holmes, Jerry (CB)	6-2/175	8	West Virginia	16/16
McNorton, Bruce (CB)	5-11/175	8	Georgetown (Ky.)	16/16
Mitchell, Devon (S)	6-1/194	3	Iowa	10/9
Tullis, Willie (CB)	5-11/195	9	Troy (Ala.) State	16/9
White, William (CB)	5-10/191	2	Ohio State	16/0
Woods, Jerry	5-9/187	D7	Northern Michigan	—
SPECIALISTS				
Arnold, Jim (P)	6-3/211	7	Vanderbilt	16/0
Murray, Eddie (K)	5-10/180	10	Tulane	16/0
OTHER FREE AGENTS IN CAMP				
Bruce Alexander, CB; Selwyn Brown, DB; Willie Bryant, DB; Tom Byrne, QB; James Dixon, WR; Al Hoge, DT; Todd Irvin, OT; Anthony Ketchum, WR; Robert Martz, DL; Mike McCray, LB; John Miller, S; Mark Murphy, DT; John Phillips, OL; Joseph Pizzo, QB; Rick Stukiewicz, K; Lonnie Turner, WR.				

\*Not with Detroit in 1988.  
†Includes totals with both Detroit and another NFL team in 1988.  
IR—Injured reserve.  
Key to abbreviations on page 160.

## COACHES

**Head coach**—Wayne Fontes.  
**Assistant coaches**—  
Don Clemons (administrative assistant).  
Mouse Davis (offensive passing assistant).  
Frank Gansz (special teams).  
June Jones (quarterbacks and receivers).  
Dave Levy (running backs).  
Billie Matthews (defensive backs).  
Dick Modzelewski (defensive line).  
Mike Murphy (staff assistant).  
Herb Paterra (inside linebackers).  
Charlie Sanders (tight ends).  
Jerry Wampfler (offensive line).  
Woody Widenhofer (defensive coordinator/outside linebackers).

## RECORDS/RANKINGS

**1988 regular-season record:** 4-12 (T4th in NFC Central); 2-6 in division; 3-11 in conference; 2-6 at home; 2-6 on road.

**1988 playoff record:** None.

**1988 team rankings:** total offense, 14th in NFC/28th in NFL; total defense, 11th/18th; rushing offense, 14th/27th; rushing defense, 12th/17th; passing offense, 14th/28th; passing defense, 6th/15th; scoring offense, 14th/28th; scoring defense, 7th/10th; takeaways, 7th/10th; giveaways, 6th/10th; turnover differential, T5th/T10th; sacks, 3rd/3rd; sacks allowed, 11th/25th.

**Fontes' regular-season record:** 2-3 in 1 season with Lions.

**Fontes' postseason record:** None.  
**Team record last five years:** 24-54-1 (.310, ranks 26th in league in that span).

## 1989 SCHEDULE

Sept. 10—Phoenix  
Sept. 17—at New York Giants  
Sept. 24—Chicago  
Oct. 1—Pittsburgh  
Oct. 8—at Minnesota  
Oct. 15—at Tampa Bay  
Oct. 22—Minnesota  
Oct. 29—at Green Bay (at Milwaukee)  
Nov. 5—at Houston  
Nov. 12—Green Bay  
Nov. 19—at Cincinnati  
Nov. 23—Cleveland (Thanksgiving)  
Dec. 3—New Orleans  
Dec. 10—at Chicago  
Dec. 17—Tampa Bay  
Dec. 24—at Atlanta

## 1988 RESULTS

Sept. 4—Atlanta 31-17  
Sept. 11—at L.A. Rams 10-17  
Sept. 18—New Orleans 14-22  
Sept. 25—N.Y. Jets 10-17  
Oct. 2—at San Francisco 13-20  
Oct. 9—Chicago 7-24  
Oct. 16—at N.Y. Giants 10-30  
Oct. 23—at Kansas City 7-6  
Oct. 30—N.Y. Giants (OT) 10-13  
Nov. 6—at Minnesota 17-44  
Nov. 13—Tampa Bay 20-23  
Nov. 20—at Green Bay 19-9  
Nov. 24—Minnesota 0-23  
Dec. 4—Green Bay 30-14  
Dec. 11—at Chicago 12-13  
Dec. 18—at Tampa Bay 10-21

## 1988 LEADERS

**Scoring (kicking):** Eddie Murray, 82 pts. (22/23 PATs, 20/21 FGs).  
**Scoring (touchdowns):** Garry James, 42 pts. (5 rushing, 2 receiving).  
**Passing:** Rusty Hilger, 1,558 yds. (306 att., 126 comp., 41.2%, 7 TDs, 12 int.).  
**Rushing:** Garry James, 552 yds. (3.0 avg., 5 TDs).  
**Receptions:** Pete Mandley, 44 (617 yds., 14.0 avg., 4 TDs).  
**Interceptions:** Devon Mitchell, 3 (107 yds., 1 TD); George Jamison, 3 (56 yds., 1 TD).  
**Tackles:** Chris Spielman, 153 (118 solo, 35 assisted).  
**Sacks:** Michael Cofer, 12 (88 yds.).  
**Punting:** Jim Arnold, 42.4 avg. (97 punts, 4,110 yds., 0 blocked).  
**Punt returns:** Pete Mandley, 7.8 avg. (37 att., 287 yds., 0 TDs).  
**Kickoff returns:** Carl Painter, 20.4 avg. (17 att., 347 yds., 0 TDs).



# Packer fans hope there is method to the madness

By BOB MCGINN  
Green Bay Press Gazette

**W**hat's this? The Green Bay Packers leading the National Football League in something other than small-town jokes and police blotter stories?

You bet. The Packers signed a league-high 20 players during the free-agency period last spring. Whether or not they got more chaff than wheat will be determined sometime this fall. But by expending almost \$800,000 in signing bonuses, this staid franchise that finished 4-12 last year seems to be telling its increasingly disloyal followers that brighter days are on the horizon.

For the first time in years it appears the Packers might have a method to their madness. Tom Braatz enters his third season as executive vice president of football operations and handles the draft, makes trades and negotiates all contracts. When Braatz asked the 45-member board for free-agency funds, it responded with an unlimited budget.

## COACHING

Lindy Infante might have won another game or two as a rookie head coach last season by utilizing Brent Fullwood in an I-back offense. Instead, Infante installed a pass-oriented, option-route offense that attracted him to the Green Bay job in the first place. There were growing pains galore.

Infante is a hands-on coach. He designs the offense, calls the plays, tutors the quarterbacks and is the lone voice in the offensive meetings. His background as a longtime NFL offensive coordinator is evident everywhere.

Mental mistakes drive Infante up the wall. He will take a marginal athlete with smarts if he is convinced the player is sure of his assignments. He inherited some good athletes but marginal learners



*Keith Woodside is the ideal half-back for Coach Lindy Infante's one-back, multiple offense.*

from former coach Forrest Gregg, resulting in too many blown plays last season.

Hank Bullough worked wonders as Infante's defensive coordinator in 1988. Despite having mediocre personnel, the Packers were seventh in total defense—their best finish since 1974—and fifth against the pass.

## OFFENSE

**QUARTERBACKS**—The signal-caller in Infante's system doesn't need a great arm, super quickness or creative instincts. But he must be able to read defenses and react in harmony with his receivers.

Don Majkowski, a gifted athlete, is perhaps the man best suited to run this offense. An option runner at Virginia, Majkowski tends to flee the pocket too early for Infante's tastes. Improvisation may be hailed elsewhere, but Infante wants discipline and consistency.

Randy Wright is an intelligent veteran who adapted well to Infante's system. He knows where to go with the ball but often lacks the arm strength and mobility to pull it off. His biggest negative: The Packers are 7-25 with him as a starter.

**RUNNING BACKS**—Fullwood's chances of becoming a franchise back all but evaporated

the minute Infante was hired. Fullwood is a one-dimensional tailback stuck in a one-back, multiple offense that requires versatility from its running backs. Fullwood's playing time has been limited because he won't play hurt and is poor at picking up the blitz.

Second-year man Keith Woodside is the ideal halfback for the Infante system. He has good hands (39 catches for 352 yards) but must learn to run tougher inside. Infante was ecstatic when the Packers acquired Herman Fontenot, his old third-down back with the Cleveland Browns, in a draft-day trade.

**RECEIVERS**—Infante likes wide receivers with reliable hands who can make the clutch catch under fire.

Using that criterion, Sterling Sharpe's 55 receptions as a rookie last season lose some of their luster. Sharpe seems to lack deep speed and didn't score a touchdown (his only one of the year) until the 14th week of the season. Inconsistent hands (11 drops) were part of the problem, but often he didn't seem quick enough to separate from defenders deep or once he made the catch inside.

The Packers suffered when deep threat Walter Stanley went out after seven weeks with a shoulder injury. He should be healthy this year.

The coaches are high on Erik Affholter, a rookie fourth-round draft choice acquired from Washington in a draft-day trade. Infante believes Affholter, who played his college ball at Southern Cal, can fill the role of a possession receiver.

Overachieving Ed West may lose some of his playing time at tight end if John Spagnola, a free agent formerly with Seattle, can still run at 32. West is a scrappy blocker but can't get downfield in the passing game.

**LINEMEN**—Whether all-world No. 1 draft pick Tony Mandarich plays left or right tackle, his superhuman work habits and athletic ability turn a weakness into a strength.

None of the returning starters—tackles Ken Ruettgers and Keith Uecker, guards Rich Moran and Ron Hallstrom and center Mark Cannon—had a good year. If Cannon, especially, doesn't show marked improvement in camp, the starting center job probably will go to 12-year veteran Blair Bush, another Seattle import.

Ruettgers, a No. 1 pick in 1985, should bounce back from an off-year and be the tackle opposite Mandarich. Moran, Hallstrom, ex-Giant Billy Ard, third-year man Dave Croston and Uecker will be involved in a free-for-all at guard.

## DEFENSE

**LINEMEN**—The front line lacked a sack specialist last year (nose tackle Blaise Winter led all down linemen with five) and won't have one this year unless Shawn Patterson emerges. He runs the 40-yard dash in 4.85 seconds and doesn't hesitate to throw his body around. But he had only four sacks in 15 games as a rookie.

## AT A GLANCE

**Strengths:** Newcomers Tony Mandarich, Billy Ard and Blair Bush might work wonders in the offensive line. Tim Harris is a pass-rushing force, a leader by example and Green Bay's only star player.

**Weaknesses:** There is no established quarterback in an offense built around the position. The kicking game is awful. No defensive player has made the Pro Bowl since 1978.

**Key to success:** The defense must repeat its '88 performance and the offense must succeed playing power football behind Mandarich.

**Sure sign of trouble:** If Harris doesn't start 16 games, Don Majkowski doesn't improve or Brent Fullwood can't stay on the field.

**That's a fact:** The Packers' last 1,000-yard rusher was Terrell Middleton in 1978.

**The head coach says:** "We'll be better having been together for a year. I would be very disappointed if we're not."





## PACKERS DATA

With starting left end Alphonso Carreker (no sacks) gone via free agency, the Packers will experiment with incumbent right end Robert Brown on the left side. That would free Patterson for right end, where his pass-rush ability would be better suited.

Veterans Bob Nelson and Jerry Boyarsky, who missed all but two games last year because of injury, figure to duel Winter for the starting nose tackle job.

**LINEBACKERS**—This is the strength of the team with four quality starters and several competent backups.

Weakside blitzer Tim Harris emerged as one of the game's premier pass rushers with 13½ sacks despite having opponents geared to stop him. He led the team with 97 tackles.

John Anderson, who has worn the Pack-er uniform longer than any other current player, figures to line up for his 12th straight season at the other outside line-backer spot.

Brian Noble returned after a 67-day contract holdout to finish third on the team with 82 tackles in only 12 games. Johnny Holland isn't as strong as Noble at the point of attack, but he moves better and is good at covering running backs on pass routes.

**DEFENSIVE BACKS**—Age is a problem here with three starters in their 30s. Nevertheless, this hard-working group functioned well in Bullough's predominantly zone system.

Strong safety Mark Murphy, 31, had his finest season with a team-high five interceptions. What he lacks in foot speed he makes up for in intelligence.

Dave Brown, the team's oldest player at 36, figures to be challenged by ex-Saint Van Jakes. Another free agent, ex-Ram Mickey Sutton, should be a backup.

One of the more interesting battles is shaping up at free safety, where incumbent Ken Stills will try to fight off Chuck Cecil. With four interceptions as a rookie in 1988, the hard-hitting Cecil has stamped himself as a future star.

## SPECIAL TEAMS

Green Bay served as a halfway house for indigent kickers last year. Four were tried, all flopped, and the Packers spent the off-season looking for new people.

Those figuring to battle for the job this season are sixth-round pick Chris Jacke, who was 25 of 27 in field-goal attempts at Texas-El Paso last year; ex-Buffalo Bill Kirk Roach, a No. 5 pick in 1988, and free agents Willie Beecher and Kerry Brady.

Punter Don Bracken had a poor season as well. After compiling a net average of just 31.8 yards on 85 punts a year ago, he will be pushed by ex-Giant Maury Buford and rookie Brian Shulman, an eighth-round pick from Auburn.

Fullwood and Woodside did a good job on kickoff returns last season, but the punt return men must improve in 1989. Sharpe and Stanley handled most of the punt returns last season as the Packers finished last in the NFC with a paltry 5.9-yard average. Darryl Harris, a standout kickoff return man for Minnesota last year, may help here. ■

## 1989 ROSTER

## QUARTERBACKS

Dilweg, Anthony  
Hudson, Doug  
Kiel, Blair  
Majkowski, Don  
Wright, Randy

## RUNNING BACKS

Armentrout, Joe  
Carruth, Paul Ott  
Fontenot, Herman  
Fullwood, Brent  
Haddix, Michael (FB)  
Harris, Darryl  
Howard, Bobby  
Mason, Larry  
Smith, Jeff  
Thomas, Lavale  
Woodside, Keith (FB)  
Workman, Vince

## RECEIVERS

Affhough, Erik  
Ambrose, J.R.  
Bland, Carl  
Bolton, Scott  
Didier, Clint (TE)  
Epps, Phillip  
Keel, Mark (TE)  
Kemp, Perry  
Matthews, Aubrey  
Novoselsky, Brent (TE)  
Query, Jeff  
Scott, Patrick  
Sharpe, Sterling  
Spagnola, John (TE)  
Stanley, Walter  
West, Ed (TE)  
Wilkins, Gary (TE)

## OFFENSIVE LINEMEN

Ard, Billy (G)  
Arey, Mike (T)  
Bush, Blair (C)  
Campen, James (C)  
Cannon, Mark (C)  
Croston, David (T)  
Cupp, Keith (T)  
Haley, Darryl (T)  
Hollstrom, Ron (G)  
Kirby, Scott (T)  
Mandarch, Tony (T)  
Moran, Rich (G/C)  
Ruetters, Ken (T)  
Uecker, Keith (G/T)  
Veingrad, Alan (T/G)

## DEFENSIVE LINEMEN

Bartlett, Doug (T)  
Boyersky, Jerry (NT)  
Brock, Matt (E)  
Brown, Robert (E)  
Hall, Mark (E)  
Kellar, Scott (NT)  
Moore, Brent (T)  
Nelson, Bob (NT)  
Patterson, Shawn (T/E)  
Reinke, Jeff (E)  
Williams, Toby (NT)  
Winter, Blaise

## LINEBACKERS

Anderson, John  
Crain, Kurt  
Dent, Burnell  
Dorsey, John  
Harris, Tim  
Holland, Johnny  
Howard, Todd  
Ingles, Tim  
Moore, Brent  
Noble, Brian  
Stephen, Scott  
Wedington, Mike

## DEFENSIVE BACKS

Brown, Dave  
Cecil, Chuck (S)  
Greene, Tiger  
Jakes, Van  
Jefferson, Norman  
Jessie, Ben  
King, Thomas (S)  
Lee, Mark  
McGruder, Michael  
Murphy, Mark (S)  
Pitts, Ron  
Shiver, Stan (S)  
Stallworth, Cedric  
Stills, Ken  
Sutton, Mickey (CB)

## SPECIALISTS

Beecher, Willie (K)  
Bracken, Don (P)  
Brady, Kerry (K)  
Buford, Maury (P)  
Burrow, Curtis (K)  
Jacke, Chris (K)  
Roach, Kirk (K)  
Shulman, Brian (P)

HI./WT.

NFL Exp.

College

1988 Games GP/GS

Duke

Nicholls State

Notre Dame

Virginia

Wisconsin

Wisconsin

Alabama

Louisiana State

Auburn

Mississippi State

Arizona State

Indiana

Troy (Ala.) State

Nebraska

Fresno State

Texas A&amp;M

Ohio State

Southern California

Mississippi

Virginia Union

Auburn

Portland State

Texas Christian

Arizona

California (Pa.) State

Delta (Miss.) State

Pennsylvania

Milikin

Grambling State

South Carolina

Yale

Mesa (Colo.)

Auburn

Georgia Tech

Wake Forest

San Diego State

Washington

Tulane

Texas-Arlington

Iowa

Findlay

Utah

Iowa

Arizona State

Michigan State

San Diego State

Southern California

Auburn

East Texas State

Northern Illinois

Pittsburgh

Oregon

Virginia Tech

Southwestern Louisiana

Northern Illinois

Southern California

Miami (Fla.)

Arizona State

Mankato (Minn.) State

Nebraska

Syracuse

Michigan

Auburn

Tulane

Connecticut

Memphis State

Texas A&amp;M

Texas A&amp;M

Toledo

Southern California

Arizona State

Arizona State

Oklahoma

Michigan

Arizona

Western Carolina

Kent State

Louisiana State

Southwest Texas

Southwestern Louisiana

Washington

Kent State

West Liberty (W.Va.)

UCLA

Florida State

Georgia Tech

Wisconsin

Montana

Utah State

Michigan

Hawaii

Texas Tech

Central Arkansas

Texas-El Paso

Western Carolina

Auburn

## COACHES

Head coach—Lindy Infante.

Assistant coaches—

Greg Blache (defensive line).

Hank Bullough (defensive coordinator).

Joe Clark (general offensive assistant).

Charlie Davis (offensive line).

Buddy Geis (receivers).

Dick Jauron (defensive backfield).

Virgil Knight (strength and conditioning/tight ends).

Dick Moseley (outside linebackers).

Willie Peete (offensive backfield).

Howard Tippett (special teams).

## RECORDS/RANKINGS

1988 regular-season record: 4-12 (T4th in NFC Central); 2-6 in division; 3-9 in conference; 2-6 at home; 2-6 on road.

1988 playoff record: None.

1988 team rankings: total offense, 12th in NFC/24th in NFL; total defense, 4th/7th; rushing offense, 13th/26th; rushing defense, 13th/20th; passing offense, 9th/13th; passing defense, 2nd/5th; scoring offense, 13th/26th; scoring defense, 11th/25th; takeaways, 3rd/4th; giveaways, 13th/27th; turnover differential, 11th/25th; sacks, T12th/T20th; sacks allowed, 10th/24th.

Infante's regular-season record: 4-12 in 1 season with Packers.

Infante's postseason record: None.

Team record last five years: 29-49-1 (.373, ranks 24th in league in that span).

## 1989 SCHEDULE

Sept. 10—Tampa Bay  
Sept. 17—New Orleans  
Sept. 24—at Los Angeles Rams  
Oct. 1—Atlanta (at Milwaukee)  
Oct. 8—Dallas  
Oct. 15—at Minnesota  
Oct. 22—at Miami  
Oct. 29—Detroit (at Milwaukee)  
Nov. 5—Chicago  
Nov. 12—at Detroit  
Nov. 19—at San Francisco  
Nov. 26—Minnesota (at Milwaukee)  
Dec. 3—at Tampa Bay  
Dec. 10—Kansas City  
Dec. 17—at Chicago  
Dec. 24—at Dallas

## 1988 RESULTS

Sept. 4—L.A. Rams 7-34  
Sept. 11—Tampa Bay 10-13  
Sept. 18—at Miami 17-24  
Sept. 25—Chicago 6-24  
Oct. 2—at Tampa Bay 24-27  
Oct. 9—New England 45-3  
Oct. 16—at Minnesota 34-14  
Oct. 23—Washington 17-20  
Oct. 30—at Buffalo 0-28  
Nov. 6—at Atlanta 0-20  
Nov. 13—Indianapolis 13-20  
Nov. 20—Detroit 9-19  
Nov. 27—at Chicago 0-16  
Dec. 4—at Detroit 14-30  
Dec. 11—Minnesota 18-6  
Dec. 18—at Phoenix 26-17

## 1988 LEADERS

Scoring (kicking): Max Zendejas, 44 pts. (17/19 PATs, 9/16 FGs).

Scoring (touchdowns): Brent Fullwood, 48 pts. (7 rushing, 1 receiving).

Passing: Don Majkowski, 2,119 yds. (336 att., 178 comp., 53%, 9 TDs, 11 int.).

Rushing: Brent Fullwood, 483 yds. (4.8 avg., 7 TDs).

Receptions: Sterling Sharpe, 55 (791 yds., 14.4 avg., 1 TD).

Interceptions: Mark Murphy, 5 (19 yds., 0 TDs).

Tackles: Tim Harris, 97 (86 solo, 11 assisted).

Sacks: Tim Harris, 13½ (86 yds.).

Punting: Don Bracken, 38.7 avg. (85 punts, 3,287 yds., 1 blocked).

Punt returns: Ron Pitts, 10.3 avg. (9 att., 93 yds., 1 TD).

Kickoff returns: Brent Fullwood, 20.0 avg. (21 att., 421 yds., 0 TDs).

\*Not with Green Bay in 1988.

IR—Injured reserve.

Key to abbreviations on page 160.



# Vikes have their eyes on the NFC Central prize

By ROBERT SANSEVERE  
Minneapolis Star Tribune

**M**ike Lynn is not a nice guy. It says so right there on his coffee mug: "No More Mr. Nice Guy."

Any player who's gone through a contract negotiation with the Minnesota Vikings' general manager doesn't need a coffee mug to tell him Lynn's no nice guy.

The mug appeared on his desk the morning after the Vikings were shellacked, 34-9, on New Year's Day by the San Francisco 49ers in the NFC divisional playoffs. On the plane ride home, several players joked with one another and played music, behavior that incensed Lynn. He felt like ringing in the new year by wringing a few necks.

"No More Mr. Nice Guy" has vowed to crack down on incorrigible players if they're arrested for drunk driving (the Vikings lead the league in this area) or commit other unlawful or insolent acts. And he has threatened to suspend players who misbehave.

On the field, the Vikings have played second fiddle to the Chicago Bears in the NFC Central for the last three seasons, taking the wild-card route to the playoffs the last two years while the Bears won the division crown. Lynn has always said that his goal is to win the division, while Coach Jerry Burns said he just wanted to make the playoffs and take his chances from there.

No more. Burns doesn't have a coffee mug to affirm it, but he has altered his thinking. Being eliminated as a wild card two straight years has convinced him that maybe there's something to what Lynn says about winning the division.

"I don't think everyone has been on the same page for a number of years," Lynn said. "The message given to the players by the coaches (was) to get into the play-



*For the first time in his nine years with the Vikings, the quarterback job belongs to Wade Wilson.*

offs. Once you're in the playoffs, anything can happen.

"The message they're getting in 1989 is to win the Central Division."

The other message is to believe what's on his coffee mug.

## COACHING

Some head coaches try to do too much. Not Burns, who freely delegates authority to his assistants. Some folks think he gives too much freedom to offensive coordinator Bob Schnelker.

Nobody questions Schnelker's knowledge. Give him the chalk and he'll draw up any number of plays that will work—provided that everybody does their job. If a play fails, in Schnelker's mind it's because the players didn't execute.

It's tough to find fault with the defensive coaches. The Vikings ranked first overall in total defense and three of the coaches were being seriously considered for jobs elsewhere. But Floyd Peters (coordinator), Paul Wiggin (line) and Pete Carroll (secondary) all decided to stay in Minnesota.

## OFFENSE

**QUARTERBACKS**—For the first time in his nine years with the Vikings, the starting job belongs to Wade Wilson. Even though he didn't start six games early last

season, Wilson played so well down the stretch that he was picked for the Pro Bowl for the first time. He completed 61.4 percent of his passes (tops in the National Football League) and led the NFC with a 91.5 rating.

Former starter Tommy Kramer, who is entering his 13th season in Minnesota, doesn't throw the ball with as much zip as he used to but should be a solid backup. And few quarterbacks can read a defense as well as he can.

**RUNNING BACKS**—The Vikings need a return to 1987 form from tailback Darrin Nelson, who slumped from 642 yards rushing and a league-leading 4.9-yard average two years ago to 380 yards and a 3.4-yard average last year. Nelson is Minnesota's only true breakaway threat and, plagued by injuries in '88, his longest run from scrimmage was just 27 yards.

The Vikings are still waiting for D.J. Dozier, a No. 1 draft pick in 1987, to produce. He has just 424 yards rushing in his first two years and the Vikings are growing impatient. He was kept out of some games last year because coaches feared he would blow his assignments.

Dozier spent the off-season working out with a New York Mets farm team. Unless he gets serious about football, his future might be outside of Minneapolis, one way or another.

The fullback should be Rick Fenney, a third-year player who is often compared to former Miami great Larry Csonka. But Fenney has had an assortment of injury problems in his pro career, and if they crop up again this year, the job will go to Alfred Anderson, who started 13 games at fullback a year ago.

**RECEIVERS**—Anthony Carter's complaint ever since he became a Viking in 1985 is that he doesn't get enough passes thrown his way (an average of 47 per season in his first four years).

Carter averaged 17 yards a reception on 72 catches last season but caught only seven in Minnesota's two playoff games. It's clear that the Vikings have to get the ball into his hands more often.

The emergence of Hassan Jones as the other wide receiver should help take some of the double-teaming off Carter. Jones averaged 19.5 yards on 40 receptions last year.

Tight end Steve Jordan caught 57 balls last season but became a forgotten man late in the year. He caught three or fewer passes in five of Minnesota's final six games, including the playoffs.

**LINEMEN**—The only question is at right guard. Terry Tausch, last year's starter, was left unprotected as a free agent and was signed by the 49ers. The Vikings expect second-year man Todd Kalis to take the job.

The Vikings are solid at tackle, with two-time Pro Bowler Gary Zimmerman on the left side and Tim Irwin on the right. What the Vikings need is a backup tackle, and they're hoping third-round pick John Hunter (Brigham Young) or

## AT A GLANCE

**Strengths:** Minnesota had the NFL's top-ranked defense in 1988, with five members making the Pro Bowl. It should be even stronger this year with the addition of outside linebacker Mike Merriweather. Anthony Carter is one of the league's most dangerous wide receivers.

**Weaknesses:** The halfback position could be a mess if D.J. Dozier doesn't give up baseball and get his football career turned around. Left defensive end is a question mark, with Doug Martin trying to come back from major knee surgery.

**Key to success:** Darrin Nelson returning to 1987 form and Merriweather returning to the Pro Bowl form of his Steeler days.

**Sure sign of trouble:** If tackle Keith Millard, the defensive cornerstone, is felled by an injury.

**That's a fact:** The Vikings led the NFL in giveaway-takeaway ratio (plus 23) last year.

**The head coach says:** "We feel we can contend for the division championship. That's our main goal."





sixth-rounder Jeff Mickel (Eastern Washington) will be the answer.

Center Kirk Lowdermilk and left guard Randall McDaniel have Pro Bowl potential. Lowdermilk could make it this season. McDaniel, the Vikings' No. 1 draft pick in 1988, might be a few years away.

## DEFENSE

**LINEMEN**—This could be the best defensive line in football if not for a weakness at left end. The line accounted for 32½ of Minnesota's 37 sacks a year ago.

Tackle Keith Millard and right end Chris Doleman made the Pro Bowl last year after leading the Vikings with eight sacks apiece. Nose tackle Henry Thomas played well enough to be selected to the Pro Bowl but wasn't.

Left end is a concern. Doug Martin had the job until he suffered a knee injury late last year that required major surgery. Whether he can come back healthy in 1989 is anyone's guess.

Curtis Greer, a former Cardinal, was signed as a free agent. The Vikings think eighth-round pick Alex Stewart (Cal State Fullerton) can be terrific if he plays hard on every down.

**LINEBACKERS**—The acquisition of former Pittsburgh Steelers standout Mike Merriweather last spring and the drafting of Wake Forest's David Braxton (a second-round pick but the Vikings' first selection overall) transform what had been a weakness into a strength.

The Vikings believe that Merriweather, a three-time Pro Bowl player, can rebound to old form after sitting out the entire '88 season in a contract dispute with Pittsburgh. If he does, Minnesota's sack total should rise dramatically.

The Vikes are hoping that outside linebacker Jesse Solomon recovers from off-season knee surgery. Minnesota put an NFL-high nine players in the Pro Bowl last year but Solomon, who led the team with 95 solo tackles, wasn't one of them.

One of those Pro Bowlers, middle linebacker Scott Studwell, will be 35 before the season starts. But Burns says the last two seasons have been the best of Studwell's 13 years with the team.

**DEFENSIVE BACKS**—The Vikings are set with a starting unit of strong safety Joey Browner, free safety Brad Edwards and cornerbacks Carl Lee and Reggie Rutland. Browner and Lee were Pro Bowl selections last season, while Rutland and Edwards were solid performers after winning starting jobs in midseason.

## SPECIAL TEAMS

Placekicker Chuck Nelson was 19 of 20 on field-goal attempts inside 40 yards but only one of five beyond that range. Burns likes Nelson's accuracy but wishes his kickoffs were deeper.

Bucky Scribner averaged 40.3 yards as the punter last year but figures to be challenged for that job in training camp.

The Vikings lost kickoff return man Darryl Harris to Green Bay as an unprotected free agent. A punt returner also is needed, and Lynn thinks Everett Ross, the last player taken in the draft last spring, could be the man. ■

# VIKINGS DATA

## 1989 ROSTER

QUARTERBACKS	Ht./Wt.	NFL Exp.	College	1988 Games GP/GS
Gannon, Rich	6-3/199	3	Delaware	3/0
Kramer, Tommy	6-2/202	13	Rice	10/6
Wilson, Wade	6-3/208	9	East Texas State	14/10
<b>RUNNING BACKS</b>				
Anderson, Alfred	6-1/223	6	Baylor	16/13
Baxter, Brad (FB)	6-1/231	D11	Alabama State	—
Dozier, D.J.	6-0/208	3	Penn. State	8/1
Fenney, Rick	6-1/232	3	Washington	13/3
Nelson, Darrin	5-9/184	8	Stanford	13/11
Rice, Allen	5-10/204	6	Baylor	16/4
<b>RECEIVERS</b>				
Allen, Anthony	5-11/182	5	Washington	*14/0
Bethea, Ryan	6-3/206	2	South Carolina	0/0
Carter, Anthony	5-11/177	5	Michigan	16/16
Gustafson, Jim	6-1/174	4	St. Thomas (Minn.)	16/0
Hilton, Carl (TE)	6-3/230	4	Houston	8/0
Ingram, Darryl (TE)	6-2/228	D4	California	—
Jones, Hassan	6-0/192	4	Florida State	16/15
Jordan, Steve (TE)	6-3/239	8	Brown	16/16
Lewis, Leo	5-8/172	9	Missouri	16/1
Ross, Everett	5-10/178	D12b	Ohio State	—
<b>OFFENSIVE LINEMEN</b>				
Foot, Chris (C)	6-4/255	8	Southern California	16/5
Huffman, David (T)	6-6/284	10	Notre Dame	2/1
Hunter, John (T)	6-7/294	D3	Brigham Young	—
Irwin, Tim (T)	6-7/285	9	Tennessee	16/16
Kalis, Todd (G)	6-5/284	2	Arizona State	14/0
Lowdermilk, Kirk (C)	6-3/267	5	Ohio State	12/11
McDaniel, Randall (G)	6-3/271	2	Arizona State	16/15
Mickel, Jeff (T)	6-5/288	D6	Eastern Washington	—
Rasmussen, Randy	6-1/254	6	Minnesota	7/0
Rodenhauser, Mark (C)	6-5/260	2	Illinois State	*0/0
Zimmerman, Gary (T)	6-6/286	4	Oregon	16/16
<b>DEFENSIVE LINEMEN</b>				
Doleman, Chris (E)	6-5/262	5	Pittsburgh	16/16
Faulkner, Jeff	6-3/260	2	Southern	0/0
Greer, Curtis (E)	6-4/258	8	Michigan	*0/0
Habib, Brian (T)	6-6/267	1	Washington	IR
Martin, Doug (E)	6-3/258	10	Washington	11/10
Millard, Keith (T)	6-5/262	5	Washington State	15/15
Newton, Tim (T)	6-0/277	5	Florida	14/1
Noga, Al (T)	6-1/261	2	Hawaii	9/1
Roland, Benji (NG)	6-2/270	D7	Auburn	—
Stewart, Alex (E)	6-3/263	D8	Fullerton State	—
Struthers, Thomas (E)	6-4/265	6	Jackson State	*10/0
Thomas, Henry (NT)	6-2/267	3	Louisiana State	15/15
<b>LINEBACKERS</b>				
Berry, Ray	6-2/225	3	Baylor	15/0
Braxton, David	6-1/232	D2	Wake Forest	—
Dusbabek, Mark	6-3/232	1	Minnesota	*IR
Galvin, John	6-2/226	2	Boston College	*16/0
Howard, David	6-2/232	5	Long Beach State	16/16
Merriweather, Mike	6-2/221	7	Pacific	*0/0
Solomon, Jesse	6-0/232	4	Florida State	16/16
Studwell, Scott	6-2/228	13	Illinois	16/16
Woodson, Shawn	6-2/275	D12a	James Madison	—
<b>DEFENSIVE BACKS</b>				
Browner, Joey (S)	6-2/210	7	Southern California	16/16
Curtis, Travis (S)	5-10/180	3	West Virginia	*13/0
Edwards, Brad (S)	6-1/200	2	South Carolina	16/6
Fitzgerald, Jamie (S)	6-1/187	1	Idaho St.	0/0
Fuller, Joe (CB)	5-11/180	CFL	Iowa	*18
Fullington, Darrell (S)	6-1/197	2	Miami (Fla.)	15/0
Holt, Issiac (CB)	6-2/202	5	Alcorn State	13/9
Lee, Carl	5-11/183	7	Marshall	16/16
McMillian, Audrey	6-0/190	4	Purdue	*0/0
Rutland, Reggie (S)	6-1/194	3	Georgia Tech	16/7
Smith, Daryl (CB)	5-9/185	3	North Alabama	*7/0
<b>SPECIALISTS</b>				
Beatty, Pat (K)		R	North Dakota	—
Nelson, Chuck (K)	5-11/172	6	Washington	16/0
Scribner, Bucky (P)	6-0/213	5	Kansas	16/0
Thompson, Pat (P)	5-10/200	R	Brigham Young	—

**OTHER FREE AGENTS IN CAMP**  
Robert Carter, RB; Jarrod Delaney, WR; Darrell Ellison, LB; Matt Fitts, G; Kenneth Johnson, S; Andy Keeler, G; Jeff Lindsley, TE; Kevin Morgan, RB; Tony Peterson, QB; Shawn Sykes, RB; Mike Trigg, QB; Ken Watson, DB.

\*Not with Minnesota in 1988.  
IR—Injured reserve.  
Key to abbreviations on page 160.

## COACHES

**Head coach**—Jerry Burns.  
**Assistant coaches**—  
Tom Batta (tight ends/special teams).  
Jerry Brown (receivers).  
John Brunner (running backs).  
Pete Carroll (secondary).  
Monte Kiffin (linebackers).  
John Michels (offensive line).  
Floyd Peters (defensive coordinator).  
Bob Schnelker (offensive coordinator).  
Paul Wiggins (defensive line).

## RECORDS/RANKINGS

**1988 regular-season record:** 11-5 (2nd in NFC Central); 6-2 in division; 9-3 in conference; 7-1 at home; 4-4 on road.

**1988 playoff record:** Defeated L.A. Rams, 28-17, in NFC wild-card game; lost to San Francisco, 34-9, in NFC semifinals.

**1988 team rankings:** total offense, 5th in NFC/7th in NFL; total defense, 1st/1st; rushing offense, 9th/20th; rushing defense, 4th/5th; passing offense, 3rd/4th; passing defense, 1st/2nd; scoring offense, 2nd/4th; scoring defense, 2nd/2nd; takeaways, 1st/1st; giveaways, 4th/16th; turnover differential, 1st/1st; sacks, 10th/11th; sacks allowed, 18th/22nd.

**Burns' regular-season record:** 28-19 in 3 seasons with Vikings.

**Burns' postseason record:** 3-2 in playoffs with Vikings.

**Team record last five years:** 38-41 (.481, ranks 15th in league in that span).

## 1989 SCHEDULE

Sept. 10	—Houston
Sept. 17	—at Chicago
Sept. 24	—at Pittsburgh
Oct. 1	—Tampa Bay
Oct. 8	—Detroit
Oct. 15	—Green Bay
Oct. 22	—at Detroit
Oct. 30	—at New York Giants (Mon.)
Nov. 5	—Los Angeles Rams
Nov. 12	—at Tampa Bay
Nov. 19	—at Philadelphia
Nov. 26	—at Green Bay (at Milwaukee)
Dec. 3	—Chicago
Dec. 10	—Atlanta
Dec. 17	—at Cleveland
Dec. 25	—Cincinnati (Mon.)

## 1988 RESULTS

Sept. 4	—at Buffalo	10-13
Sept. 11	—New England	36-6
Sept. 18	—at Chicago	31-7
Sept. 25	—Philadelphia	23-21
Oct. 2	—at Miami	7-24
Oct. 9	—Tampa Bay	14-13
Oct. 16	—Green Bay	14-34
Oct. 23	—at Tampa Bay	49-20
Oct. 30	—at San Francisco	21-24
Nov. 6	—Detroit	44-17
Nov. 13	—at Dallas	43-3
Nov. 20	—Indianapolis	12-3
Nov. 24	—at Detroit	23-0
Dec. 4	—New Orleans	45-3
Dec. 11	—at Green Bay	6-18
Dec. 19	—Chicago	28-27

## 1988 LEADERS

**Scoring (kicking):** Chuck Nelson, 108 pts. (48/49 PATs, 20/25 FGs).

**Scoring (touchdowns):** Alfred Anderson, 48 pts. (7 rushing, 1 receiving).

**Passing:** Wade Wilson, 2,746 yds. (332 att., 204 comp., 61.4%, 15 TDs, 9 int.).

**Rushing:** Darrin Nelson, 380 yds. (3.4 avg., 1 TD).

**Receptions:** Anthony Carter, 72 (1,225 yds., 17.0 avg., 6 TDs).

**Interceptions:** Carl Lee, 8 (118 yds., 2 TDs).

**Tackles:** Jesse Solomon, 121 (95 solo, 26 assisted).

**Sacks:** Chris Doleman, 8 (61 yds.); Keith Millard, 8 (49 yds.).

**Punting:** Bucky Scribner, 40.3 avg. (84 punts, 3,387 yds., 2 blocked).

**Punt returns:** Leo Lewis, 9.5 avg. (58 att., 550 yds., 0 TDs).

**Kickoff returns:** Darryl Harris, 21.4 avg. (39 att., 833 yds., 0 TDs).



# For Perkins and Bucs, the third year is here

By TOM FORD  
Tampa Tribune

**A**s a reward for winning five games last year, the Tampa Bay Buccaneers were awarded a schedule that includes games with Super Bowl champion San Francisco and AFC champion Cincinnati. That's just for starters.

The National Football League's youngest team also gets to play NFC Central rivals Chicago and Minnesota twice, New Orleans, Cleveland and Houston. Eight of the Bucs' opponents in 1989 won at least 10 games in '88. Ray Perkins, who took over as Tampa Bay coach in 1987, has vowed, "We will win in the third year." This is the third year.

For the Buccaneers to win, they will have to be less benevolent when they have the football and play better against the pass when they don't.

Quarterback Vinny Testaverde, now in his third year, will be the pivotal player. He set an NFC record with 35 interceptions last season before it was learned he suffered from colorblindness. To help him find his receivers better, the Bucs have abandoned their bright orange jerseys at home and will dress in white.

"A number of players expressed to me the feeling that they felt like we were just getting started," Perkins said. "Beating Buffalo (10-5) in the 14th week reinforced in all of us the progress we could see being made."

"We have the nucleus of the team in place. We have some work to do, but I feel we are on the verge of being able to win on a consistent basis."

## COACHING

The Bucs' coaching staff is one of the least experienced on the pro level. But what it lacks in experience it makes up for in hard work. It is a tireless group that works a lot of hours and has the kind of



*Vinny Testaverde's difficulties during his first two seasons have resulted from his desire to do too much by himself.*

enthusiasm necessary to motivate the league's youngest team. Nine of the Bucs' 10 assistants have ties to the University of Alabama, where Perkins served as coach from 1983-86.

And no one works harder than the head coach himself. Perkins spent most of his first two years on the job weeding out those players whom he felt had come to accept losing too easily. That task is now complete.

## OFFENSE

**QUARTERBACKS**—Despite Testaverde's rocky first two NFL seasons, Perkins believes the problems he has experienced will make him a better player. The knock on Testaverde is that he can't read defenses, but Perkins insists the difficulties have resulted from the quarterback's desire to do too much by himself.

In 1988, Testaverde ranked last among NFL starters with a 48.8 quarterback ranking. But he also passed for 3,240 yards (fifth in the conference) and has the athletic ability necessary to become one of the top quarterbacks in the game.

Joe Ferguson, the league's oldest active player at 39, was the only other quarterback on the roster last season. He may make the team again this year, but Perkins wants another quarterback on the

team as well. The most likely candidate: Kerwin Bell, signed as a free agent when the Atlanta Falcons left him unprotected last spring.

**RUNNING BACKS**—Tailback Lars Tate, a rookie last season, led the team in rushing with 467 yards. But Tate was in and out of Perkins' doghouse from the beginning of the season to the end. He signed late, was criticized for failing to block blitzing linebackers and had a critical fumble in a loss to Miami.

The backfield surprise of 1988 was fullback William Howard, a fifth-round pick who took over at midseason for injured James Wilder and finished with 452 yards rushing. Howard is a crushing blocker and an unselfish player.

Wilder, who will be 31 when the season begins, is coming back from arthroscopic knee surgery. The Bucs' career rushing leader (5,713 yards) probably will fill the role of a swing player. He has the ability to catch passes out of the backfield and is still a tough inside runner.

The Bucs admit they made a mistake in letting tailback Kerry Goode get away to the Denver Broncos. Goode, a No. 7 draft pick last year, started five games and displayed quickness and cutting ability while rushing for 231 yards. Goode had off-season shoulder surgery and the Bucs left him unprotected, figuring that the injury would make teams shy away. They were wrong.

**RECEIVERS**—Starting wide receivers Bruce Hill and Mark Carrier are similar in athletic ability and production. Hill, who played defensive back his first two years in college, led the team with 58 receptions for 1,040 yards and scored nine touchdowns. Carrier caught 57 passes for 970 yards and scored five touchdowns. Neither has blazing speed, but they run precise patterns and are not afraid to catch the ball in traffic.

The Bucs need a speedy receiver to stretch defenses and give Hill and Carrier an opportunity to get open underneath coverage. Second-round draft pick Danny Peebles has run the 40-yard dash in 4.29 seconds and might be the answer.

Tight end Ron Hall was third on the team with 39 catches for 555 yards. Hall plays with reckless abandon, makes the tough catch down the middle and blocks well.

**LINEMEN**—The Bucs can only hope their offensive line is as healthy in 1989 as it was in '88. Four players—tackles Paul Gruber and Rob Taylor, guard Rick Mallory and center Randy Grimes—started in all 16 games.

Gruber, the team's No. 1 pick a year ago, was a summer camp holdout but contributed immediately when the season began. Grimes is one of the most underrated players at his position in the league and Taylor, a starter on the left side before Gruber arrived, is solid if not spectacular. Mallory, the left guard, has been durable and consistent.

## AT A GLANCE

**Strengths:** Run defense and the passing game, despite Vinny Testaverde's league-leading 35 interceptions. The Bucs' passing game can be among the league's most explosive.

**Weaknesses:** Cornerback. And the defense must improve on its 20 sacks of last season.

**Key to success:** Testaverde must stop forcing throws into coverage. Rookie linebacker Broderick Thomas must be the impact player the Bucs are looking for on defense. The running game must take heat off Testaverde.

**Sure sign of trouble:** If the Bucs lose to San Francisco, New Orleans, Minnesota and Chicago in consecutive weeks early in the season.

**That's a fact:** Tampa Bay has had six straight losing seasons and has not beaten NFC Central rival Chicago since 1982.

**The head coach says:** "I'm pleased with where we are. I'm excited about getting on with it, a helluva lot more than I was last year."





John Bruhin started six games at right guard as a rookie in 1988, sharing time with veteran Dan Turk, who missed several games with a knee injury.

## DEFENSE

**LINEMEN**—The Bucs' defense against the run made a dramatic improvement in 1988, leading the league in fewest average yards allowed per carry (3.2). Reuben Davis, a ninth-round draft pick in '88, was a pleasant surprise at left end and led all down linemen in tackles with 61. Right end Ron Holmes, a No. 1 pick in 1985, has led the team in sacks the last two seasons despite missing time with chest and knee injuries.

He has not had much help, however; the Bucs were next to last in the NFL with 20 sacks last season. Curt Jarvis started at nose tackle after missing most of his 1987 rookie season with injuries. Holmes had four sacks last season, Jarvis 2½.

**LINEBACKERS**—This may be the strongest area on defense, especially with the arrival of No. 1 pick Broderick Thomas of Nebraska. Thomas, at 6-foot-4, 250 pounds, will inherit the right outside spot from Winston Moss, who has had only one sack in two seasons. Kevin Murphy, coming off a solid '88 season, will man the left outside spot.

The inside is in good hands with starters Eugene Marve and Ervin Randle and free-agent find Sidney Coleman, who started 10 games as a rookie when Randle was sidelined with a shoulder injury.

**DEFENSIVE BACKS**—Put out a help wanted sign at cornerback. The Bucs ranked 26th in pass defense last year and abandoned man-to-man coverage for zone. Rod Jones, a former No. 1 draft pick, was relegated to nickel defense after two seasons as a starter at cornerback. He was replaced by overachiever Bobby Futrell. The other starting corner, third-year man Ricky Reynolds, had four interceptions in '88 but slumped off from his 1987 performance.

The Bucs hope that fourth-round draft pick Anthony Florence will challenge Futrell for a starting spot.

Free safety Harry Hamilton and strong safety Mark Robinson, a pair of Penn State products, are hard hitters who should be even better in their second seasons with the Bucs.

## SPECIAL TEAMS

Donald Igwebuike is one of the league's best placekickers. He was 19 of 25 on field-goal attempts last season, and his kicks won three games in the final minute.

Punting was a big headache in 1988. Ray Criswell was released during the off-season after compiling a league-low 36.4-yard average. The Bucs drafted Alabama's Chris Mohr in the sixth round of the draft, and the job is his to lose.

Donnie Elder ranked seventh in the league in kickoff returns (22.7) last season, and the addition of Sylvester Stamps, a free agent formerly with the Falcons, will make the return game even stronger. Futrell (10.5-yard average in '88) again will be the punt-return man. ■

# BUCCANEERS DATA

## 1989 ROSTER

QUARTERBACKS	Ht./Wt.	NFL Exp.	College	1988 Games
Bell, Kerwin	6-3/205	2	Florida	0/0
Ferguson, Joe	6-1/190	17	Arkansas	2/1
Testaverde, Vinny	6-5/215	3	Miami (Fla.)	15/15
RUNNING BACKS				
Egu, Patrick	5-10/205	D9	Nevada-Reno	—
Gladman, Charles	5-11/205	1	Pittsburgh	0/0
Howard, William (FB)	6-0/240	2	Tennessee	15/9
Lawson, Jamie	5-10/245	D5	Nicholls State	—
Smith, Don	5-11/195	2	Mississippi State	10/3
Stamps, Sylvester	5-7/185	5	Jackson State	4/1
Tate, Lars	6-2/215	2	Georgia	15/5
Valentine, Ira	6-1/220	2	Texas A&M	0/0
Wilder, James (FB)	6-3/225	9	Missouri	7/7
Wonsley, Nathan (FB)	5-9/185	2	Mississippi	0/0
RECEIVERS				
Carrier, Mark	6-0/185	3	Nicholls State	16/16
Drewrey, Willie	5-7/165	5	West Virginia	14/0
Duncan, Herb	6-0/180	D11c	Northern Arizona	—
Hall, Ron (TE)	6-4/245	3	Hawaii	15/14
Harris, William (TE)	6-4/243	2	Bishop (Tex.)	0/0
Hill, Bruce	6-0/180	3	Arizona State	14/14
Parks, Jeff (TE)	6-4/240	2	Auburn	3/1
Peebles, Danny	5-11/170	D2	North Carolina State	—
Pillow, Frank	5-10/170	2	Tennessee State	15/0
Richardson, Greg	5-7/170	2	Alabama	2/0
Seals, Ray (TE)	6-3/245	1	None	1R
OFFENSIVE LINEMEN				
Bax, Carl	6-4/275	D8	Missouri	—
Bruhin, John (G)	6-3/280	2	Tennessee	16/6
Cooper, Mark (T)	6-5/280	7	Miami (Fla.)	15/0
Graham, Dan (C)	6-2/270	1	Northern Illinois	1R
Granger, Ty	6-6/280	D10	Clemson	—
Grimes, Randy (C)	6-4/275	7	Baylor	16/16
Gruber, Paul (T)	6-5/290	2	Wisconsin	16/16
Mallory, Rick (G)	6-2/265	5	Washington	16/16
McHale, Tom (G)	6-4/275	3	Cornell	10/0
Mounts, Rod	6-4/285	D11a	Texas A&I	—
Simmonds, Mike (G)	6-4/281	1	Indiana State	1R
Sowell, Brent (T)	6-5/285	1	Alabama	1R
Taylor, Rob (T)	6-6/295	4	Northwestern	16/16
Turk, Dan (G)	6-4/260	4	Wisconsin	12/10
DEFENSIVE LINEMEN				
Cannon, John (E)	6-5/260	8	William & Mary	16/3
Clapp, Tommy	6-4/280	1	Louisiana State	1R
Davis, Reuben (E)	6-4/290	2	North Carolina	16/13
Goff, Robert (E)	6-3/270	2	Auburn	16/6
Griffin Willie (NT)	6-3/300	D11b	Nebraska	—
Holmes, Ron (E)	6-4/265	5	Washington	10/10
Jarvis, Curt (NT)	6-2/265	3	Alabama	15/15
Lee, Shawn (NT)	6-2/290	2	North Alabama	15/0
Seals, Ray (E)	6-3/245	1	None	1R
Smith, Robert (E)	6-7/270	2	Grambling State	0/0
Swaine, Harry (E)	6-5/270	3	Rutgers	10/1
LINEBACKERS				
Anno, Sam	6-2/230	3	Southern California	13/0
Coleman, Sidney	6-2/250	2	Southern Mississippi	16/10
Gaines, Chris	6-0/238	2	Vanderbilt	4/0
Little, Derrick	6-4/245	D6b	South Carolina	—
Marve, Eugene	6-2/240	8	Saginaw Valley (Mich.)	16/16
Moss, Winston	6-3/235	3	Miami (Fla.)	16/15
Murphy, Kevin	6-2/235	4	Oklahoma	16/16
Najarian, Pete	6-2/230	3	Minnesota	1/0
Randle, Ervin	6-1/250	5	Baylor	9/6
Rolling, Henry	6-2/225	2	Nevada-Reno	15/0
Thomas, Broderick	6-4/250	D1	Nebraska	—
DEFENSIVE BACKS				
Cocroft, Sherman	6-1/190	5	San Jose State	13/0
Elder, Donnie	5-9/175	4	Memphis State	16/0
Florence, Anthony	5-11/185	D4	Bethune-Cookman	—
Futrell, Bobby	5-11/190	4	Eliz. City (N.C.) St.	16/15
Hamilton, Harry	6-0/195	6	Penn State	16/16
Harris, Odie	6-0/190	2	Sam Houston State	16/7
Johnson, Sidney	5-9/175	2	California	13/0
Jones, Rod	6-0/185	4	Southern Methodist	14/1
Reynolds, Ricky	5-11/190	3	Washington State	16/16
Robinson, Mark	5-11/200	5	Penn State	9/9
Young, Terry	5-11/170	D12	Georgia Southern	—
SPECIALISTS				
Burdick, Shaun (P)	6-4/185	1	Cincinnati	0/0
Carney, John (K)	5-11/160	2	Notre Dame	4/0
Drew, Peter (K)	5-10/172	1	Troy (Ala.) State	0/0
Igwebuike, Donald (K)	5-9/185	5	Clemson	12/0
Knighten, Billy (P)	6-1/188	1	Southern Mississippi	0/0
Mohr, Chris (P)	6-4/215	D6a	Alabama	—
Walters, Garey (P)	5-10/220	1	Jacksonville State	0/0

### OTHER FREE AGENTS IN CAMP

John Adelta, NT; Peter Caspariello, TE; Ray Chavous, DL; Jeff Garnica, C; Rich Gould, G; Erick Harrison, WR; John Harvey, RB; Steve Hegdale, OT; Michel James, WR; Kermit Kendrick, DB; Bud Keyes, QB; Donnie Maloney, RB; Marvin Marsh, RB; Chuck Massaro, C; Alvin Mitchell, FB; Bill Moody, FB; Walter Odom, TE; Maurice Oliver, LB; Wendell Phillips, S; Todd Smith, WR; Albert Thomas, DB.

°Not with Tampa Bay in 1988.

IR—Injured reserve.

Key to abbreviations on page 160.

## COACHES

**Head coach**—Ray Perkins.

**Assistant coaches**—

John Bobo (offensive line).

Louis Campbell (defensive assistant).

Sylvester Croom (running backs).

Mike DuBose (defensive line).

Doug Graber (defensive coordinator/sec-

ondary).

Kent Johnston (strength and conditioning).

Joe Kines (linebackers).

Rodney Stokes (special teams).

Richard Williamson (receivers).

## RECORDS/RANKINGS

**1988 regular-season record:** 5-11 (3rd in NFC Central); 4-4 in division; 4-8 in conference; 3-5 at home; 2-6 on road.

**1988 playoff record:** None.

**1988 team rankings:** total offense, 10th in NFC/17th in NFL; total defense, 8th/13th; rushing offense, 10th/21st; rushing defense, 2nd/2nd; passing offense, 8th/12th; passing defense, 13th/26th; scoring offense, 11th/22nd; scoring defense, 11th/19th; takeaways, T9th/T16th; giveaways, 14th/28th; turnover differential, 12th/26th; sacks, 14th/27th; sacks allowed, 5th/T13th.

**Perkins' regular-season record:** 9-22 in 2 seasons with Buccaneers; 32-56 in 6 NFL seasons overall.

**Perkins' postseason record:** 1-1 in playoffs with Giants.

**Team record last five years:** 19-60 (.241, ranks 28th in league in that span).

## 1989 SCHEDULE

Sept. 10—at Green Bay  
Sept. 17—San Francisco  
Sept. 24—New Orleans  
Oct. 1—at Minnesota  
Oct. 8—Chicago  
Oct. 15—Detroit  
Oct. 22—at Washington  
Oct. 29—at Cincinnati  
Nov. 5—Cleveland  
Nov. 12—Minnesota  
Nov. 19—at Chicago  
Nov. 26—at Phoenix  
Dec. 3—Green Bay  
Dec. 10—at Houston  
Dec. 17—at Detroit  
Dec. 24—Pittsburgh

## 1988 RESULTS

Sept. 4—Philadelphia 14-41  
Sept. 11—at Green Bay 13-10  
Sept. 18—Phoenix 24-30  
Sept. 25—at New Orleans 9-13  
Oct. 2—Green Bay 27-24  
Oct. 9—at Minnesota 13-14  
Oct. 16—at Indianapolis 31-35  
Oct. 23—Minnesota 20-49  
Oct. 30—Miami 14-17  
Nov. 6—at Chicago 10-28  
Nov. 13—at Detroit 23-20  
Nov. 20—Chicago 15-27  
Nov. 27—at Atlanta 10-17  
Dec. 4—Buffalo 10-5  
Dec. 11—at New England (OT) 7-10  
Dec. 18—Detroit 21-10

## 1988 LEADERS

**Scoring (kicking):** Donald Igwebuike, 78 pts. (21/21 PATs, 19/25 FGs).

**Scoring (touchdowns):** Bruce Hill, 54 pts. (9 receiving).

**Passing:** Vinny Testaverde, 3,240 yds. (466 att., 222 comp., 47.6%, 13 TDs, 35 int.).

**Rushing:** Lars Tate, 467 yds. (3.8 avg., 7 TDs).

**Receptions:** Bruce Hill, 58 (1,040 yds., 17.9 avg., 9 TDs).

**Interceptions:** Harry Hamilton, 6 (123 yds., 0 TDs).

**Tackles:** Eugene Marve, 121 (88 solo, 33 assisted).

**Sacks:** Ron Holmes, 4 (20 yds.).

**Punting:** Ray Criswell, 36.4 avg. (68 punts, 2,477 yds., 0 blocked).

**Punt returns:** Bobby Futrell, 10.5 avg. (27 att., 283 yds., 0 TDs).

**Kickoff returns:** Donnie Elder, 22.7 avg. (34 att., 772 yds., 0 TDs).



# BESTS *and* WORSTS

By JIM ARMSTRONG  
Denver Post

**A**nybody can make predictions. But how many can do it intelligently with information that goes above and beyond the obvious names and numbers?

For example:

- Everybody knows that Buffalo should be able to stuff its AFC East competitors with a defense that falls just short of awesome, but few probably have noticed the new rage of this division. You've heard of the one-back running game? Well, the Miami Dolphins (Dan Marino), the Indianapolis Colts (Eric Dickerson) and the New England Patriots (John Stephens) use one-back offenses.

- The Cincinnati Bengals are a nice team, the Cleveland Browns are frustrated, the Houston Oilers are hungry and the Pittsburgh Steelers are desperate. Can the Bengals and Browns hold off the screaming, scratching, clawing, punching bad boys of Houston in the AFC Central?

- The AFC West, which not long ago was considered the best division in the National Football League, has become so bad that a team that hasn't finished first since 1971 is a decent bet to win it. Kansas City has a b-i-i-g-name coach and some much-needed linebacking help, so this could be the Chiefs' year. Seattle and Denver, meanwhile, are desperately trying to fill gaping holes, and the Los Angeles Raiders are hoping that "vertical" will apply to their passing game and not their position in the standings.

Just some food for thought, with some more tasty morsels about the "Bests and Worst" of the American Football Conference to follow.

## THE COACHES

**Biggest shoes to fill**—Bud Carson, Browns. The 58-year-old Carson becomes the league's oldest rookie head coach since Jerry Burns took over the Vikings in 1986 at age 59. If Carson can't win, and soon, he'll be feeling even older. His predecessor, Marty Schottenheimer, took over a 1-7 Browns team midway through the 1984 season and led them to a 44-27 regular-season record. Cleveland is one of only two teams (Chicago's the other) to make the playoffs in each of the last four years.

**Smallest shoes to fill**—Schottenheimer, Chiefs. Forget the players. The way Frank Gansz coached the Chiefs, they should have made him undergo urinalysis. Kansas City lost 11 games in each of the last two seasons and was the only NFL team not to win a 1988 road game. Almost any forward progress will be greatly appreciated.

**Most volatile**—Jerry Glanville, Oilers.



*Most popular with the media:  
Buffalo's Marv Levy*



*Most exciting to watch:  
L.A. Raiders' Tim Brown*

There's never a dull moment with Glanville. One minute he's joking with the press about the latest ghost for whom he has left tickets. The next minute his mood is as dark as those outfits he wears.

**Best job security**—Dan Reeves, Broncos. In the Mile High City, Reeves' shadow over the local NFL franchise looms as large as the Rockies themselves. As one Broncos insider said when asked about the relationship between Reeves and Owner Pat Bowlen, "It's great. Pat lets Dan be the coach, and Dan lets Pat own the team."

**Worst job security**—Mike Shanahan, Raiders. Shanahan was a bright, young X's and O's man as Denver's offensive coordinator, destined to become a head coach somewhere. But why the Raiders? When it comes to moving the ball, Shanahan and Al Davis have completely different philosophies. Shanahan prefers the horizontal passing game (mid-range throws to receivers crossing the field), while Davis always has been a proponent of football's three-run homer—the deep vertical passing game.

**Most popular with the media**—Marv Levy, Bills. He's not a great quote or colorful personality, but he's a genuinely nice guy who always takes time to talk. He has been part of the media, working briefly as a color man for United States Football League telecasts, and it shows.

**Least popular with the media**—Sam Wyche, Bengals. It isn't so much that he's unpopular. He's a nice enough guy, and was more than accommodating at the Super Bowl. But you never know when he might fly off the handle. After the Bengals' 1988 season-opening victory, Wyche told reporters that he didn't expect any of them to challenge his fourth-quarter play-calling "unless you've got some (bleeps) I don't think you've got." The bottom line on Wyche: He's a good man who lets losing get to him. And sometimes, even winning has the same effect. Like the time he ordered a full-pads practice the day after the Bengals had won, 42-7.

## THE PLAYERS

**Best perspective**—Cris Collinsworth, Bengals. A once-great player who doesn't wear a chip on his shoulder after being demoted to second string. He still keeps things loose in the dressing room, even in bad times. A few years ago, he was asked about the Browns, who at the time led the AFC Central with a 6-6 record. "What can I say?" he said. "They're having a good year."

**Worst perspective**—Brian Bosworth, Seahawks. He has pulled off one of the great coups in NFL history, becoming a multi-millionaire cult figure before ever making an impact on the field. You can't



knock his good fortune, but there are those who question his methods. He appears to be playing football for the love of something other than football.

**Most pleasant draft surprise**—Deron Cherry, Chiefs. Actually, he never was drafted. He was a punter at Rutgers before signing with the Chiefs as a free agent in 1981. He couldn't cut it as a punter and was released before the season. From those humble roots came a player who has been a Pro Bowl free safety for the last six seasons.

**Least pleasant draft surprise**—Ted Gregory, Saints. Gregory, Denver's No. 1 draft pick in 1988, never played a down before being dumped on New Orleans. The nose tackle was listed at 6-foot-1, 270 pounds by the Denver scouting department. Reeves, 6-1 himself, was astonished when he met Gregory after the draft. "He was," Reeves said, "the shortest 6-1 I've ever seen."

**Most colorful newcomer**—Burt Grossman, Chargers. Margo Adams' half-brother has two pet snakes, an alligator named Jewels and a pit bull, Bernie, named after New York subway gunman Bernhard Goetz. Just your basic, quiet, unassuming defensive end.

**Best use of Plan B**—Alphonso Carreker, Broncos. Carreker had no sacks last season at Green Bay. Denver, facing a desperate shortage of defensive ends, gave him a four-year, \$1.675 million contract.

**Best interview**—Boomer Esiason, Bengals. After a 41-6 December loss to the Oilers, Esiason spent six hours the next day with an out-of-town reporter, touring various restaurants before ending up at Esiason's house. Boomer, when asked about the clause in his contract prohibiting him from writing a book or newspaper column, said, "They're more worried about my mouth than my body."

**Worst interview**—Marino, Dolphins. We may never know what the best quarterback of the '80s really is like. We do know, however, that he doesn't have much to say, and doesn't particularly like saying it.

**Non-interview**—Mark Haynes, Broncos. He not only doesn't talk to reporters, he urges teammates to "take the fifth" while they're being interviewed. Said his wife: "I even sometimes call him the Ice-man. He can be icy at home, too."

**Best roommates**—Wyche, before training camp '88, decided to mix and match Bengals players, pairing whites with blacks and defensive players with offensive players. "That was a great move by Sam," Bengals cornerback Solomon Wilcotts said. "We had a bad situation. We had lost a lot of games we should have won, and we were unhappy with each other. From day one, we knew it wasn't going to be like that again."

**Worst roommates**—Mark Gastineau and Brigitte Nielsen. Gastineau was leading the AFC in sacks when he decided midway through last season that he'd rather chase leggy blondes than quarterbacks.

**Most exciting to watch**—Tim Brown,

## TSN PREDICTIONS

### AFC EAST

#### 1. BUFFALO

Shane Conlan's health is the main concern on a strong team.

#### 2. NEW ENGLAND

John Stephens and a comeback by Tony Eason are the keys to success.

#### 3. N.Y. JETS

The Jets are a dangerous team if Wesley Walker remains healthy.

#### 4. MIAMI

Take the pressure off Marino and run the ball and the Dolphins will improve.

#### 5. INDIANAPOLIS

The Colts have an unbalanced offense and a vulnerable defense.

### AFC WEST

#### 1. KANSAS CITY

Don't laugh. In this weak division, the Chiefs can win.

#### 2. SEATTLE

The talented but puzzling Seahawks are consistent only in their inconsistency.

#### 3. DENVER

A healthy John Elway is a must, but you still can't pass on every down.

#### 4. L.A. RAIDERS

These days, the Raiders endure more punishment than they inflict.

#### 5. SAN DIEGO

The search for a quarterback and a consistent rushing attack continues.

### AFC CENTRAL

#### 1. HOUSTON

For the feisty Oilers, it's time to put up or shut up.

#### 2. CLEVELAND

All the coaching and player moves in the last year may well take their toll.

#### 3. CINCINNATI

The Bengals could fall farther if Boomer Esiason can't duplicate his 1988 success.

#### 4. PITTSBURGH

Bubby Brister needs help from his running backs and receivers.

Raiders. Why, oh why, did the Raiders give up a No. 1 for Willie Gault when they already had Brown? He's a threat to score every time he touches the ball.

**Least exciting to watch**—Sammy Winder, Broncos. A workhorse who has ground it out between the tackles often enough to accumulate 4,956 career rushing yards, the 13th-highest total among active running backs.

**Biggest disappointment**—Mike Junkin, Chiefs. The Browns traded up to get the fifth pick in the 1987 draft. They selected Junkin, a Duke linebacker, bypassing Penn State's Shane Conlan in the process. The Browns traded Junkin to Kansas City in the off-season for a fifth-rounder.

### THE TEAMS

**Biggest rebuilding job**—Chargers. The good old days are getting to be the real old days in San Diego. At one point last season, seven of the Chargers' 11 defensive starters were free agents.

**Smallest rebuilding job**—Browns. Getting Eric Metcalf and Lawyer Tillman in the draft might get the Browns into the Super Bowl for the first time.

**Best seats for sale**—Chiefs. In Kansas City, you can walk up on game day and get 40-yard-line ducats. The Chiefs sold 26,000 season tickets for 78,000-seat Arrowhead Stadium last season. This year, they're looking for 35,000.

**Most unprotected free agents signed**—Chiefs, 17. That wasn't the surprising part. What didn't make sense was that the lowly Chiefs, coming off back-to-back 11-loss seasons, had 13 of their own free agents signed by other teams.

**Fewest unprotected free agents signed**—Bengals, 0. The Bengals' theory is that many of the free agents available this year will be available again next year. So, why give somebody a signing bonus for one season? They may be right.

**Most damaged by Plan B**—Oilers. Houston lost 15 players, the most in the league, to free agency. Among the 15 were tight end Jamie Williams and safety Keith Bostic. Of the 15, four were linebackers and two defensive backs. That means that, at the very least, the Oilers' special teams will suffer.

**Most underrated offensive line**—Patriots. You don't hear much about them, but those New England linemen can move people, particularly tackle Bruce Armstrong, whose star is on the rise. This line is the major reason behind Stephens' ability to go from Northwestern (La.) State to the NFL—and win Rookie of the Year honors.

**Most overrated offensive line**—Colts. Consider this: It seems the Colts' line almost succeeded in the impossible—making Eric Dickerson look like an average running back. Of Dickerson's 388 carries in 1988, 204 produced three yards or less.

**Most beleaguered offense**—Browns. The Bermuda Triangle isn't confined to the Caribbean. Cleveland quarterbacks will confirm that it's also in Lake Erie. First, Bernie Kosar hurt his elbow. Then he banged up his knee. Then there was Gary Danielson's broken ankle and Don Strock's wrist injury. Things got so bad that when President Ronald Reagan tossed a pass to Ozzie Newsome during a campaign stop, Danielson said, "He's the only quarterback in Cleveland who threw a pass and didn't get hurt."

**Worst bullpen**—Steelers. Todd Blackledge, Bubby Brister's backup, has been given every chance in the world, but has never produced. He was almost cut last year at midseason.

**Best bullpen**—Jets. Pat Ryan is a veteran with a knack for sparking the Jets when their offense bogs down.

**Biggest gamble**—Seahawks. Seattle left starting center Blair Bush and tight end Mike Tice unprotected on its roster, losing both. The Seahawks also lost kick returner Bobby Joe Edmonds and Bush's backup, Stan Eisenhooth. That forced them to draft an offensive lineman, Notre Dame tackle Andy Heck, in the first round, instead of addressing their serious defensive needs. ■



# Buffalo hopes to roam into uncharted territory

By MILT NORTHROP  
Buffalo News

**A**ttaining success is only half the struggle. Once you find it, you have to keep it.

The last two times the Buffalo Bills rose to playoff status, the team sank right back into the nether reaches of the National Football League. Coach Marv Levy is well aware of that fact and will be working hard to see that it doesn't happen again.

The Bills, coming off their first AFC East championship since 1980, used a stellar defense to win 11 of their first 12 games last season. They went on to finish 12-4 before beating Houston in a divisional playoff game and losing to Cincinnati in the AFC title matchup.

The youthful Bills appear to be in excellent shape to make another run for the Super Bowl. But they must continue to improve—and without getting much outside help. They did not draft until the third round, having given up their first two picks in the 1987 trade that brought super linebacker Cornelius Bennett to Buffalo.

Nobody doubts that Bennett was worth the price. "No way would we have gotten a Cornelius Bennett with the 26th and 53rd picks in this draft," Bills General Manager Bill Polian said.

Bennett is one of Buffalo's four Pro Bowl defensive players. End Bruce Smith, linebacker Shane Conlan and veteran nose tackle Fred Smerlas are the others.

## COACHING

Last season's success finally got Levy

## AT A GLANCE

**Strengths:** The Bills' defensive front seven, when Bruce Smith, Cornelius Bennett and Shane Conlan are on the field, is as good as any in the NFL. That talented trio helped rejuvenate veterans Art Still and Fred Smerlas last season and helped inside linebacker Ray Bentley put together his best season as a pro. If the Bills get to New Orleans next January, the defense will have carried them there.

**Weaknesses:** The offensive line does not consistently protect Kelly and open holes for the running game. Buffalo receivers and runners are competent, but none can dominate a game the way Jerry Rice, Ickey Woods, Herschel Walker or Roger Craig can.

**Key to success:** The running game must become more consistent and the defense must continue to make big plays.

**Sure sign of trouble:** If Kelly is injured, the quarterback cupboard is bare. If Conlan's foot injury doesn't heal, the defense will sag.

**That's a fact:** Smith, who missed the 1988 campaign's first four games, finished one-half sack shy of the AFC lead—for the third consecutive season.

**The head coach says:** "Our offense needs a dominant running game, speed, big-play potential; our defense needs a takeaway mentality. . . . Only seven teams gave the ball away fewer times, but we ranked 19th in takeaways. This is the greatest shortcoming of an otherwise strong defensive football team."



*Stopping linebacker Cornelius Bennett is the key to having success against the Bills' defense.*

out from under the "too conservative" label. The debate over whether the Bills are using quarterback Jim Kelly properly will surely continue, but there's no denying that Levy has given the Bills' organization an orderly sense of direction.

If the Bills' offense bears a slightly different look, it's because of changes in the offensive staff. Jim Ringo, who was the coordinator and offensive line coach, retired. Ted Marchibroda, the passing coordinator who has called the plays the last two seasons, assumes a larger role.

Defensive coordinator Walt Corey became a hot head-coaching candidate after the way his unit performed last season, but nothing materialized. He is back to mastermind a unit that was fourth in the league in total defense and first in the AFC in scoring defense.

## OFFENSE

**QUARTERBACKS**—For the third year in a row, Kelly completed 59 percent (59.5) of his throws. But for the first time in his career, he threw more interceptions (17) than touchdown passes (15). His average per attempt was 7.48, up from 6.68 the season before, but suffice it to say the Bills won't bomb many opponents.

Kelly had difficulty getting the Bills into the end zone and was disappointing against the Bengals in the AFC title matchup. Levy maintains that his quarterback will become more effective when the Bills improve their running game.

Buffalo still lacks a proven backup. The Bills gave Frank Reich a vote of confi-

dence in the off-season, but then left him unprotected on their roster. They could be in trouble if anything happens to Kelly.

**RUNNING BACKS**—Second-rounder Thurman Thomas, Buffalo's first pick in 1988, came in and played like a first-rounder. He led the Bills with 881 yards and might have hit the 1,000 mark if he had not missed one game and three-quarters of another with a bad leg bruise.

Thomas was durable, ran well inside, showed some explosiveness and cutting ability on the perimeter and displayed good hands, although the Bills did not use him often as a receiver.

Ronnie Harmon takes over in shotgun formation, and Robb Riddick is a good short-yardage man who scored 12 touchdowns last season.

Jamie Mueller looked like a promising runner as a rookie in 1987, but the Bills seldom handed him the ball last year and then signed former Cincinnati bruiser Larry Kinnebrew in the off-season.

**RECEIVERS**—Andre Reed has a lock on one wide receiver spot after setting a club record with 71 receptions last season. Chris Burkett, who suffered through an injury-plagued 1988 campaign, should be the other. Both are strong, capable receivers who can catch the ball in traffic, but neither is the speed burner who can provide that necessary deep threat.

In 1988, the Bills used a third-round pick to select little Bernard Ford from Central Florida. Ford suffered a shoulder separation in a preseason game and missed the entire season. He will get his big chance in 1989, as will little speedster Don Beebe, a third-rounder (the Bills' first pick) from Chadron (Neb.) State.

Other possible backups are Trumaine Johnson and fourth-round pick John Kolesar (Michigan).

The starter at tight end again will be Pete Metzelaars unless prospect Keith McKeller is ready to beat him out.

**LINEMEN**—Only left tackle Will Wolford, entering his fourth season, and center Kent Hull seem assured of starting jobs. Guards Tim Vogler, coming off knee surgery, and Jim Ritcher and tackle Joe Devlin all seem vulnerable.

The Bills are looking for ways to get large young prospects such as 300-pound Howard Ballard and 304-pound free-agent acquisition John Davis into the lineup.

It would be no surprise to see Davis and Ballard installed on the right side, with Rich Strenger in a backup role. If that happens, look for Tony Brown, who spent last season on injured reserve, or Leonard Burton to press Ritcher at left guard.

## DEFENSE

**LINEMEN**—At the cost of an eighth-round draft pick, the Bills solved their left end position last season by acquiring veteran Art Still from Kansas City. He turned in a solid season and fit in nicely with nose tackle Smerlas and right end Smith.

This can be an awesome front line. Smith recorded 11 sacks despite missing



the first four games because of a substance-abuse suspension. Still added six sacks and Smerlas four. Jeff Wright, Smerlas' talented backup, recorded five.

When Smith was suspended, Leon Seals held up well as his replacement. Other hopefuls are ends Mark Pike and Elston Ridgle and tackles Bruce Mesner and Pat Rabold, the Bills' ninth-round draft choice (Wyoming).

**LINEBACKERS**—Bennett was everywhere for the Bills last season, chasing down the run, blitzing the quarterback, dropping into coverage and making interceptions. Stopping Bennett is the key to success against the Bills.

Conlan's run-stuffing ability allows Bennett more freedom. Conlan, however, missed three of the last four regular-season games as well as the Bills' playoff victory over Houston with a sprained foot, an injury he still was nursing as the '89 season approached.

Darryl Talley enjoyed another good year on the outside and Ray Bentley led the Bills in tackles at the other inside position. Scott Radecic provides backup insurance inside.

Remember this name: Carlton Bailey. He's big and talented and eventually could become the starter opposite Conlan. The Bills also are high on 11th-round draft pick Richard Harvey (Tulane).

**DEFENSIVE BACKS**—The Bills received their best safety play since the early 1980s from Leonard Smith (obtained in a trade with Phoenix) and Mark Kelso, while Nate Odomes and Derrick Burroughs were consistent on the corners.

The only question about that quartet is Burroughs, who might have worn out his welcome when he lost his cool and slugged a Cincinnati receiver at a critical moment of the AFC title game. He was ejected and his '89 status is uncertain.

Should Burroughs not return, look for either Wayne Davis or Kirby Jackson to step in. Buffalo drafted four cornerbacks—Michael Andrews (Alcorn State), Brian Jordan (Richmond), Chris Hale (Southern Cal) and Kenneth Cheattom (Auburn)—in the hopes of turning up a candidate for nickel back. Jordan and Cheattom also can play safety, as can backups Dwight Drane, John Hagy and Neal Guggemos, a free-agent acquisition.

## SPECIAL TEAMS

Scott Norwood was on the bubble last year during training camp. So what does he do? He leads the NFL in scoring with 129 points, connecting on 32 of 37 field-goal tries. Norwood won three games for Buffalo with field goals in the final seconds or in overtime, accounted for all the scoring in 9-6 victories over Miami and the New York Jets and provided the winning margin in a 13-10 opening-day triumph over Minnesota.

Punter John Kidd averaged only 39.5 yards, but gave his coverage unit enough time to allow only 6.2 yards per return.

The Bills' return units, however, were ineffective. They finished last in the NFL with a 5.8-yard punt return average and 19th with an 18.7 kickoff return average. ■

## BILLS DATA

### 1989 ROSTER

QUARTERBACKS	Ht./Wt.	NFL Exp.	College	1988 Games GP/GS
Gelbaugh, Stan	6-3/207	3	Maryland	0/0
Gilbert, Gale	6-3/206	3	California	0/0
Kelly, Jim	6-3/218	4	Miami (Fla.)	16/16
Reich, Frank	6-4/210	5	Maryland	3/0
RUNNING BACKS				
Davis, Kenneth	5-10/209	4	Texas Christian	*9/7
Doctor, Sean (FB)	6-2/237	D6	Marshall	—
Harmon, Ronnie	5-11/200	4	Iowa	16/1
Kinnel, Larry (FB)	6-2/258	6	Tennessee State	*0/0
Mueller, Jamie (FB)	6-1/225	3	Benedictine (Kan.)	15/15
Riddick, Robb	6-0/195	8	Millersville (Pa.) State	15/0
Thomas, Thurman	5-10/198	2	Oklahoma State	15/15
Tyrell, Tim	6-2/215	6	Northwestern Illinois	*12/0
Wright, Bo (FB)	5-10/210	1	Alabama	1R
RECEIVERS				
Beebe, Don	5-10/176	D3	Chadron (Neb.) St.	—
Bell, Albert	6-0/170	2	Alabama	*5/0
Broughton, Walter	5-10/180	4	Jacksonville State	1/0
Burkett, Chris	6-4/210	5	Jackson State	11/8
Ford, Bernard	5-9/168	1	Central Florida	1R
Howard, Joe	5-9/165	1	Notre Dame	1R
Johnson, Flip	5-10/185	2	McNeese State	11/0
Johnson, Trumaine	6-1/196	5	Grambling State	16/10
Kolesar, John	5-10/187	D4	Michigan	—
McKeller, Keith (TE)	6-6/245	3	Jacksonville State	12/0
Metzelaars, Pete (TE)	6-7/250	8	Wabash (Ind.)	16/16
Reed, Andre	6-0/190	5	Kutztown (Pa.)	15/14
Rolle, Butch (TE)	6-3/242	4	Michigan State	16/0
Tasker, Steve	5-9/185	5	Northwestern	14/0
Young, Theo (TE)	6-2/233	2	Arkansas	*0/0
OFFENSIVE LINEMEN				
Ballard, Howard (T)	6-6/300	2	Alabama A&M	16/0
Brown, Tony (T)	6-5/285	2	Pittsburgh	1R
Burton, Leonard (T)	6-3/275	4	South Carolina	16/4
Davis, John	6-4/304	3	Georgia Tech	*13/0
Devlin, Joe (T)	6-5/280	13	Iowa	16/16
Driscoll, John (T)	6-5/285	1	New Hampshire	1R
Frerotte, Mitch	6-3/275	2	Penn State	*0/0
Hull, Kent (C)	6-4/275	4	Mississippi State	16/16
Lingner, Adam	6-4/265	7	Illinois	*16/0
Marshall, Derrell (T)	6-4/305	D12	Southern California	—
Rentle, Caesar	6-3/291	2	Oklahoma	*5/0
Richter, Jim (G)	6-3/265	10	North Carolina State	16/16
Strenger, Rich (T)	6-7/285	6	Michigan	1R
Vogler, Tim (G)	6-3/285	11	Ohio State	10/10
Wolford, Will (T)	6-5/280	4	Vanderbilt	16/16
DEFENSIVE LINEMEN				
Mesner, Bruce (NT)	6-5/280	3	Maryland	1R
Pike, Mark (E)	6-4/272	3	Georgia Tech	16/0
Rabold, Pat	6-2/264	D9	Wyoming	—
Ridgle, Elston (E)	6-6/270	2	Nevada-Reno	1R
Seals, Leon (E)	6-4/265	3	Jackson State	16/5
Smerlas, Fred (NT)	6-3/280	11	Boston College	16/16
Smith, Bruce (E)	6-4/285	5	Virginia Tech	12/12
Still, Art (E)	6-7/270	12	Kentucky	15/15
Wright, Jeff (NT)	6-2/270	2	Central Missouri State	15/0
LINEBACKERS				
Bailey, Carlton	6-2/240	2	North Carolina	6/0
Bennett, Cornelius	6-2/235	3	Alabama	16/16
Bentley, Ray	6-2/235	3	Central Michigan	16/16
Conlan, Shane	6-3/235	3	Penn State	13/13
Erlanson, Tom	6-1/220	2	Washington	4/0
Garner, Hal	6-4/235	4	Utah State	12/1
Harvey, Richard	6-2/227	D11	Tulane	—
Murray, Dan	6-1/240	1	East Stroudsburg (Pa.)	1R
Radecic, Scott	6-3/242	6	Penn State	16/3
Talley, Darryl	6-4/235	7	West Virginia	16/15
DEFENSIVE BACKS				
Andrews, Michael	5-11/177	D5	Alcorn State	—
Burroughs, Derrick (CB)	6-1/180	5	Memphis State	14/13
Cheattom, Kenneth	5-11/189	D10	Auburn	—
Davis, Wayne (CB)	5-11/180	5	Indiana State	16/3
Drane, Dwight (S)	6-2/205	4	Oklahoma	16/4
Guggemos, Neal (S)	6-1/190	4	St. Thomas (Minn.)	*11/0
Hagy, John (S)	5-11/190	2	Texas	3/0
Hale, Chris (CB)	5-7/161	D7b	Southern California	—
Jackson, Kirby (CB)	5-10/180	3	Mississippi State	8/0
Jordan, Brian (CB)	6-1/205	D7a	Richmond	—
Kelso, Mark (S)	5-11/185	4	William & Mary	16/16
Odomes, Nate (CB)	5-10/188	3	Wisconsin	16/16
Smith, Leonard (S)	5-11/202	7	McNeese State	*16/15
Tucker, Errol (DB/KR)	5-8/170	2	Utah	9/0
SPECIALISTS				
Aguiar, Louie (P)	6-3/200	R	Utah State	—
Bruno, John (P)	6-2/190	2	Penn State	0/0
Hickert, Paul (K)	6-3/200	1	Murray State	0/0
Kidd, John (P)	6-3/208	6	Northwestern	16/0
Norwood, Scott (K)	6-0/207	5	James Madison	16/0
OTHER FREE AGENTS IN CAMP				
Tom Doctor, LB; Darryl Franklin, WR; Matt Jaworski, LB; Gordie Lockbaum, RB; Allen Roullette, G.				

\*Not with Buffalo in 1988.

†Includes totals with both Buffalo and another NFL team in 1988.

1R—Injured reserve.

Key to abbreviations on page 160.

### COACHES

**Head coach**—Marv Levy.  
**Assistant coaches**—  
 Tom Bresnahan (offensive line).  
 Walt Corey (defensive coordinator/linebackers).  
 Ted Cottrell (defensive line).  
 Bruce DeHaven (special teams).  
 Chuck Dickerson (special assistant to head coach/tight ends).  
 Rusty Jones (strength and conditioning).  
 Chuck Lester (defensive assistant).  
 Ted Marchibroda (offensive coordinator).  
 Nick Nicolau (receivers).  
 Elijah Pitts (running backs).  
 Dick Roach (defensive backs).

### RECORDS/RANKINGS

**1988 regular-season record:** 12-4 (1st in AFC East); 7-1 in division; 10-2 in conference; 8-0 at home; 4-4 on road.

**1988 playoff record:** Defeated Houston, 17-10, in AFC semifinals; lost to Cincinnati, 21-10, in AFC championship.

**1988 team rankings:** total offense, 4th in AFC; 12th in NFL; total defense, 1st/4th; rushing offense, 5th/7th; rushing defense, 3rd/12th; passing offense, 5th/15th; passing defense, 3rd/4th; scoring offense, 7th/14th; scoring defense, 1st/3rd; takeaways, 9th/13th; giveaways, 15th/10th; turnover differential, 7th/16th; sacks, 1st/4th; sacks allowed, 15th/19th.

**Levy's regular-season record:** 21-17 in 3 seasons with Bills; 52-59 in 8 NFL seasons overall.

**Levy's postseason record:** 1-1 in playoffs with Bills.

**Team record last five years:** 27-52 (.342, ranks 25th in league in that span).

### 1989 SCHEDULE

Sept. 10—at Miami  
 Sept. 18—Denver (Mon.)  
 Sept. 24—at Houston  
 Oct. 1—New England  
 Oct. 8—at Indianapolis  
 Oct. 16—Los Angeles Rams (Mon.)  
 Oct. 22—New York Jets  
 Oct. 29—Miami  
 Nov. 5—at Atlanta  
 Nov. 12—Indianapolis  
 Nov. 19—at New England  
 Nov. 26—Cincinnati  
 Dec. 4—at Seattle (Mon.)  
 Dec. 10—New Orleans  
 Dec. 17—at San Francisco  
 Dec. 23—at New York Jets (Sat.)

### 1988 RESULTS

Sept. 4—Minnesota 13-10  
 Sept. 11—Miami 9-6  
 Sept. 18—at New England 16-14  
 Sept. 25—Pittsburgh 36-28  
 Oct. 2—at Chicago 3-24  
 Oct. 9—Indianapolis 34-23  
 Oct. 17—at New York Jets 37-14  
 Oct. 23—New England 23-20  
 Oct. 30—Green Bay 28-0  
 Nov. 6—at Seattle 13-3  
 Nov. 14—at Miami 31-6  
 Nov. 20—N.Y. Jets (OT) 9-6  
 Nov. 27—at Cincinnati 21-35  
 Dec. 4—at Tampa Bay 5-10  
 Dec. 11—L.A. Raiders 37-21  
 Dec. 18—at Indianapolis 14-17

### 1988 LEADERS

**Scoring (kicking):** Scott Norwood, 129 pts. (33/33 PATs, 32/37 FGs).

**Scoring (touchdowns):** Robb Riddick, 84 pts. (12 rushing, 1 receiving, 1 blocked-punt return).

**Passing:** Jim Kelly, 3,380 yds. (452 att., 269 comp., 59.5%, 15 TDs, 17 int.).

**Rushing:** Thurman Thomas, 881 yds. (4.3 avg., 2 TDs).

**Receptions:** Andre Reed, 71 (968 yds., 13.6 avg., 6 TDs).

**Interceptions:** Mark Kelso, 7 (180 yds., 1 TD).

**Tackles:** Ray Bentley, 122 (68 solo, 54 assisted).

**Sacks:** Bruce Smith, 11 (81 yds.).

**Punting:** John Kidd, 39.5 avg. (62 punts, 2,451 yds., 0 blocked).

**Punt returns:** Flip Johnson, 4.5 avg. (16 att., 72 yds., 0 TDs).

**Kickoff returns:** Ronnie Harmon, 22.6 avg. (11 att., 249 yds., 0 TDs).



# Colts looking for fast break out of starting gate

By LEN PASQUARELLI  
Fort Wayne Sentinel

It shouldn't take much more than the first 60 minutes this season to determine whether the 1989 Indianapolis Colts are a herd of stampeding stallions or just another bunch of glue-factory nags.

The Colts open the campaign against the defending Super Bowl-champion San Francisco 49ers and a victory could go a long way toward fueling the confidence of a team that traditionally has trouble winning in the season's first month.

History supports the notion that the Colts are a bad September team. Ring the bell and odds are that the Colts will be last out of the starting gate. The Colts are 6-17 in September since moving to Indianapolis, 9-30 over the last 10 years. Last year's disastrous 1-5 start (1-3 in September) scuttled an 8-2 finish, the best record in the National Football League over the final 10 weeks.

"A win in that first game could really set the tone for the entire season," General Manager Jim Irsay said when the league schedule was announced.

Perhaps. But the Colts also must compete successfully against the NFL's bully boys if they are to unseat Buffalo and regain the AFC East title they captured in 1987. Indianapolis was 6-0 against teams



*Fredd Young, a flop when the Colts experimented with him at outside linebacker, came to life last season when moved back to the inside.*

with .500 or worse records in '88, 3-7 against winning teams.

## COACHING

Ron Meyer is still haunted by horror stories from his tenure with New England, but it's tough to argue the transformation he has performed with Indianapolis. Since arriving for the final three games in 1986, Meyer's Colts have fashioned a 21-13 record, second during that span only to Cleveland (23-11) among AFC teams.

Meyer prefers to let his staff handle the bulk of practice and preparation time during the week. But with five new assistants on board for the '89 season, he may alter that philosophy.

Meyer plans to take a more hands-on approach with the defense. The Colts had planned to hire a high-visibility coordinator to replace George Hill, but that never happened and defensive line coach Bill Muir will fill that role. What won't change is Meyer's motivational methods. More chat than chalkboard, he is perceived in Indianapolis as a players' coach.

## OFFENSE

**QUARTERBACKS**—Chris Chandler was 9-4 as a starter in 1988. Strong-armed and mobile, Chandler provides a running/escape dimension the Colts have lacked since they sent Mike Pagel packing to Cleveland.

The 1988 third-round draft pick has the ability to improvise, to make big plays out of seeming disasters. That's not the case with Jack Trudeau, who has worked hard to rehabilitate a surgically reconstructed knee. Trudeau actually has a better grasp of the Colts' offense—a one-back system in which the quarterback often must be a

complementary element—but he has little mobility and often becomes conservative in his play selection.

**RUNNING BACKS**—When the Colts say they run a one-back offense, they mean a one-back offense.

Eric Dickerson carried 388 times for a league-high 1,659 yards in 1988. Those figures represent 71.2 percent of the team's rushing attempts and 73.7 percent of the Colts' net rushing yardage.

Dickerson, who will turn 29 in September, has showed no signs of slowing down. His ability to cut back and change directions has not diminished, and the Colts are beginning to utilize him more as a receiver.

The man who has paid the price for Dickerson's one-man act is versatile Albert Bentley. More quick than fast, Bentley can explode into a secondary and he's a reliable third-down receiver. But with Dickerson around, this talented back simply does not get enough playing time.

**RECEIVERS**—Over the last two years, Indianapolis has added Clarence Verdin, Clarence Weathers and No. 1 draft pick Andre Rison (Michigan State). With underrated Bill Brooks and dependable Matt Bouza already on hand, what has resulted is the deepest, quickest receiving corps in team history.

In the past, Meyer has sought speed to back defenses off the line of scrimmage, allowing more running room for Dickerson. But using these receivers as highly paid decoys would be a mistake.

The Brooks-Rison tandem could be deadly. Brooks is probably the best unknown receiver in the league. He plays tough, catches everything around him, outwrestles people for the ball and jumps well. He could be even better with a speed receiver like Rison lining up opposite him.

Pat Beach and Mark Boyer should handle tight end duties.

**LINEMEN**—Injuries, the first signs of aging and inconsistency resulting from lack of cohesiveness all have conspired to turn an exclamation point into a major question mark for the Colts.

The trade of guard Ron Solt and an arch injury that forced tackle Kevin Call to miss a dozen starts disrupted the right side of the line from the beginning of the season. But performances were down all over. Left tackle Chris Hinton and center Ray Donaldson had subpar seasons, and they were particularly ineffective over the last quarter of the campaign. They both should start again in 1989, with Brian Baldinger backing up Hinton.

Left guard Randy Dixon has the potential to dominate people on the run, but his mental grasp hasn't caught up to his physical skills yet. Fourth-round draft pick Pat Tomberlin (Florida State) will get a long look at Ben Utt's right guard spot. Free-agent center Stan Eisenhooth is an unknown quantity.

## DEFENSE

**LINEMEN**—The Colts haven't had a dou-

## AT A GLANCE

**Strengths:** As long as Eric Dickerson remains healthy, the Colts will be able to control a game's pace and tempo and keep the other team's offense on the sideline. Defensively, assuming Coach Ron Meyer's "pressurized, penetrating" defense becomes reality, linebackers Duane Bickett and Fred Young could become hellish. In general, the Colts' size on both the offensive and defensive fronts will be difficult for some teams to match up against.

**Weaknesses:** The passing game, no matter who the quarterback is, remains one of the league's most inconsistent. But the biggest shortcoming is this young team's inability to take hold of games at crunch time.

**Key to success:** The new defensive strategy, everyone admits, will be high-risk. What Indianapolis must do is also make it high-reward. Meyer won't mind giving up a few home runs if he can take the ball away more often.

**Sure sign of trouble:** If the "Clarence" boys, Verdin and Weathers, line up as the starting receivers, look out. It will mean that Andre Rison was slow in developing and that Bill Brooks, the lowest-paid wideout on the team, has boycotted camp.

**That's a fact:** Despite playing only 25 games in a Colts uniform, Dickerson needs just three 100-yard games to claim the club record in that category.

**The head coach says:** "Last season showed us how close we really are. We were like a snowball rolling downhill those last 10 weeks, and there's no telling what we could have done in the playoffs with that kind of momentum. Losing those early games taught us a lesson we need to carry over to this year."





ble-digit sacker on the defensive line since the late '70s in Baltimore, and they probably won't have one this year, either. But the addition of free agents Sam Clancy, Mitch Willis and Dave Puzzuoli and third-round draft pick Mitchell Benson (Texas Christian) gives the team enough versatility to enable Meyer to install the multiple-front look he's seeking.

Meyer plans to use some four-man fronts and Clancy, who can go both inside and out, could be a key. Benson, a 300-pounder, could provide inside push and stuff things between the tackles if motivated. He certainly will get a chance.

Incumbent ends Donnell Thompson and Jon Hand could benefit from a more aggressive scheme, although it's doubtful either will spend much time in enemy backfields. Undersized Harvey Armstrong, who could start inside if Benson flops, has always been a productive spot player with big-play capability.

**LINEBACKERS**—Indianapolis owns a pair of million-dollar-a-year linebackers in Duane Bickett and Fred Young, and General Manager Jim Irsay hopes to get his father's money's worth out of both.

Tall, rangy and powerful, Bickett led the team in tackles in '88. Young, a flop when the Colts experimented with him on the outside, came to life when moved back to the inside.

O'Brien Alston, a storkish outside linebacker who started 11 games his rookie season, and undersized Jeff Herrod, all but assured of an inside job this season, should round out the starting quartet.

Former starter Cliff Odom will be the swing man in reserve, but behind him the depth is questionable.

**DEFENSIVE BACKS**—Free safety Mike Prior, who was on the field for every defensive snap last season, probably was the Colts' defensive MVP. Savvy, instinct and the knack for getting to the ball despite physical limitations all made Prior an indispensable player.

Former Houston Pro Bowler Keith Bostic, a free-agent signee, will either start at strong safety or stand in an unemployment line. He has slowed down, but the Colts still covet his hitting ability.

Eugene Daniel and Chris Goode should be the starters at the corners. The Colts still are looking for a spot for Michael (The Rude Dude) Ball, who could jump in at strong safety if Bostic fails. Safety Craig Swoope is oft-injured and corner Chuckie Miller needs more experience. Although they keep trying to write him off, John Holt is a versatile performer who still makes the big play in nickel situations.

## SPECIAL TEAMS

Dean Biasucci, who set a league record with six field goals of 50-plus yards in '88, is simply one of the best in the league. Punter Rohn Stark bounced back from the worst season of his career (1987) to have a more than adequate year.

Once again, the return game was one of the league's most sporadic. Bentley averaged only 19.9 yards per kickoff return and Verdin, after returning a punt 73 yards for a touchdown in the season's third game, virtually disappeared. ■

## COLTS DATA

### 1989 ROSTER

QUARTERBACKS	Ht./Wt.	NFL Exp.	College	1988 Games GP/GS
Chandler, Chris	6-4/210	2	Washington	15/13
Johnson, Wayne	6-4/213	D11	Georgia	—
Ramsey, Tom	6-1/185	5	UCLA	*7/1
Taylor, Steve	5-11/200	D12b	Nebraska	—
Trudeau, Jack	6-3/214	4	Illinois	2/2
<b>RUNNING BACKS</b>				
Bentley, Albert	5-11/214	5	Miami (Fla.)	16/2
Dickerson, Eric	6-3/217	7	Southern Methodist	16/16
DuBoise, William	5-11/220	D12a	South Carolina St.	—
Hunter, Ivy Joe	6-0/212	D7a	Kentucky	—
Jackson, Earnest	5-10/225	7	Texas A&M	*12/6
Wonsley, George	5-10/219	6	Mississippi State	16/0
<b>RECEIVERS</b>				
Banks, Roy	5-10/193	2	Eastern Illinois	14/0
Beach, Pat (TE)	6-4/252	7	Washington State	16/16
Bouza, Matt	6-3/212	8	California	15/5
Boyer, Mark (TE)	6-4/242	5	Southern California	16/13
Brandes, John (TE)	6-2/255	3	Cameron (Okla.)	16/0
Brooks, Bill	6-0/191	4	Boston University	16/16
Clinkscales, Joey	6-2/198	3	Tennessee	*7/0
Dee, Donnie (TE)	6-4/247	2	Tulsa	13/0
Mackall, William	5-9/180	D9	Tennessee-Martin	—
Pruitt, James	6-3/198	4	Cal State Fullerton	1/0
Rison, Andre	5-10/185	D1	Michigan State	—
Verdin, Clarence	5-8/163	4	SW Louisiana	16/11
Weathers, Clarence	5-9/172	7	Delaware State	*16/1
<b>OFFENSIVE LINEMEN</b>				
Baldinger, Brian (G)	6-4/268	7	Duke	16/3
Call, Kevin (T)	6-7/302	6	Colorado State	8/4
Dixon, Randy (T)	6-3/290	3	Pittsburgh	16/16
Donaldson, Ray (C)	6-3/288	10	Georgia	16/16
Eisenhooth, Stan	6-5/275	2	Towson State	*13/0
Hinton, Chris (T)	6-4/295	7	Northwestern	14/13
Knight, Steve	6-4/295	2	Tennessee	0/0
McQuaid, Dan	6-7/278	4	Nevada-Las Vegas	14/0
Thompson, Jim (T)	6-6/266	D10	Auburn	—
Tomberlin, Pat (G)	6-3/310	D4	Florida State	—
Utt, Ben (G)	6-6/286	8	Georgia Tech	16/16
<b>DEFENSIVE LINEMEN</b>				
Armstrong, Harvey	6-3/268	7	Southern Methodist	16/1
Benson, Mitchell (T)	6-3/300	D3	Texas Christian	—
Clancy, Sam (E)	6-7/275	6	Pittsburgh	*16/12
Ehin, Chuck (NT)	6-5/275	6	Brigham Young	*0/0
Hand, Jon (E)	6-7/298	4	Alabama	15/15
Johnson, Ezra (E)	6-4/250	13	Morris Brown (Ga.)	10/1
Puzzuoli, Dave (NT)	6-3/230	6	Pittsburgh	*0/0
Thompson, Donnell (E)	6-4/275	9	North Carolina	16/16
Willis, Mitch	6-8/285	5	Southern Methodist	*10/0
<b>LINEBACKERS</b>				
Alston, O'Brien	6-6/246	2	Maryland	15/11
Bickett, Duane	6-5/243	5	Southern California	16/16
Brown, Phillip	6-2/230	1	Alabama	*1R
Crawford, Tim	6-4/250	2	Texas Tech	0/0
Herrod, Jeff	6-0/243	2	Mississippi	16/0
Kraynak, Rich	6-1/225	6	Pittsburgh	*0/0
Larson, Kurt	6-3/230	D8	Michigan State	—
McDonald, Quintus	6-3/247	D6	Penn State	—
Odom, Cliff	6-2/245	9	Texas-Arlington	13/7
Washington, Ronnie	6-1/240	2	Northeast Louisiana	*0/0
Young, Fred	6-1/233	6	New Mexico State	15/12
<b>DEFENSIVE BACKS</b>				
Ball, Michael	6-0/216	2	Southern (La.)	16/0
Baylor, John	6-0/195	1	Southern Mississippi	1R
Bostic, Keith (S)	6-1/223	7	Michigan	*16/1
Daniel, Eugene (CB)	5-11/178	6	Louisiana State	16/15
Goode, Chris	6-0/195	3	Alabama	13/8
Holt, John (CB)	5-10/179	9	West Texas State	9/1
Miller, Chuckie	5-10/180	2	UCLA	3/1
Plummer, Bruce	6-1/197	3	Mississippi State	*11/0
Prior, Mike	6-0/204	4	Illinois State	16/16
Rockins, Chris	6-1/200	5	Oklahoma State	*0/0
Swoope, Craig	6-1/214	4	Illinois	11/4
Taylor, Keith	5-11/193	2	Illinois	3/0
Washington, Charles (S)	6-0/195	D7b	Cameron (Okla.)	—
<b>SPECIALISTS</b>				
Biasucci, Dean (K)	6-0/191	5	Western Carolina	16/0
Stark, Rohn (P)	6-3/204	8	Florida State	16/0
<b>OTHER FREE AGENTS IN CAMP</b>				
Chris Carrier, S; Walt Harris, DL; Joe Huff, LB; Ben Jefferson, OT; Welton Morgan, WR; Anthony Parker, DB; Paul Riley, TE; Al Royster, DL; Aaron Sam, RB; Don Yarano, LB.				

\*Not with Indianapolis in 1988.

†Includes totals with both Indianapolis and another NFL team in 1988.

IR—Injured reserve.

Key to abbreviations on page 160.

### COACHES

Head coach—Ron Meyer.

Assistant coaches—

Leon Burnett (running backs).

George Catavolos (secondary).

Milt Jackson (receivers).

Larry Kennan (offensive coordinator).

Bill Muir (defensive line).

Dante Scarnecchia (offensive line).

Brad Seely (special teams).

Rick Venturi (linebackers).

Tom Zupancic (strength and conditioning).



# Sinking Dolphins beef up defense, running game

By GARY SHELTON  
Miami Herald

**S**o you want to know about the Miami Dolphins? Just check last year's preseason reports.

Like last year, and the year before, the Dolphins are coming off a season in which they ranked 26th defensively in the National Football League.

Like last year, and the year before, the Dolphins are coming off a season in which their running game was abysmal.

And like last year, and the year before, the Dolphins hope this season will be different.

"We think we've improved ourselves," Dolphins Coach Don Shula said. "The proof will be on the field, but we feel better about things."

The reason for this year's optimism is a group of new players that includes two first-round draftees. The Dolphins signed 11 unprotected free agents—including former Phoenix Cardinal linebacker E.J. Junior, who, they insist, still can play—and then drafted Florida State running back Sammie Smith and Florida safety Louis Oliver with the ninth and 25th draft picks.

Fresh bodies, fresh hopes.

When the Dolphins landed both Smith and Oliver on draft day, Owner Joe Robbie and Shula exchanged high-fives. "This ranks with the all-time great drafts we've had," Robbie said.

Both Smith and Oliver address problem

## AT A GLANCE

**Strengths:** Despite Dan Marino's "off season," he remains one of the NFL's top guns. Even without a running game to keep defenses honest, Marino has produced five 3,000-yard seasons in six years. Part of the reason is the receiving corps, which would benefit greatly if Mark Duper returns to form. Inside linebackers John Offerdahl and Mark Brown are the heart of the defense.

**Weaknesses:** The Dolphins must prove that they're committed to a running game, and they must find the proper balance between it and Marino's arm. They also must prove the line can run block. Defensively, the pass rush needs help.

**Key to success:** The Dolphins play a last-place schedule, which should help. So, too, should first-round draftees Sammie Smith (running back) and Louis Oliver (safety).

**Sure sign of trouble:** If end John Bosa can't return immediately from his 1988 knee injury, the defensive line will suffer. If a long holdout keeps Smith and/or Oliver out of camp, look out.

**That's a fact:** The Dolphins have won only 22 games over the last three years. That's why you won't see them on Monday Night Football this year, a rare occurrence for this franchise.

**The head coach says:** "What we need are the players who can get us over the hurdle, the guys who can make the defensive play or the offensive play, something that will pick you up and make you a winner."



*Dan Marino still possesses the most dangerous passing arm in the NFL.*

areas. The Dolphin running game has been virtually non-existent. "Our idea of a balanced attack," Robbie said, "has been the long pass and the short pass."

Said Shula: "We can't expect quarterback Dan Marino to do it all."

In 1988, the Dolphins ranked last in the NFL in rushing and their leading runner, Lorenzo Hampton, ranked 49th with 414 yards.

## COACHING

Shula is the NFL's winningest active coach, and he has been on the Miami sideline for 19 seasons. But the Dolphins of 1989 will have a different feel.

The new man in charge of the passing game is Gary Stevens, the molder of University of Miami quarterbacks who was passed over for the Hurricanes' head-coaching job. Stevens replaces David Shula, who left for Dallas after a season of turmoil and rumored problems with Marino.

Also new to the staff is former Indianapolis defensive coordinator George Hill, who replaces Chuck Studley as linebackers coach.

## OFFENSE

**QUARTERBACKS**—Marino passed for 4,434 yards and 28 touchdowns last season, but didn't seem to have that usual big-play spark. His quarterback rating was only 80.8 and he was not selected to play in the Pro Bowl for the first time since 1985. Miami lost three games in which its de-

fense held the opponent without a touchdown.

Make no mistake, however. Marino still possesses the most dangerous passing arm in the NFL and could erupt back into his old form at any time.

The Dolphins will be searching for a capable backup. No longer is there a veteran such as Don Strock or Ron Jaworski on the sideline. The Dolphins signed free agents Brent Pease and Cliff Stoudt, but neither knows the system as well as past Dolphin backups.

**RUNNING BACKS**—The Dolphins hope the speedy Smith can make opponents respect them on the ground. Teams literally dared Miami to run last season, and the Dolphins couldn't.

Lorenzo Hampton and Troy Stradford, who rushed for 619 yards as a rookie in 1987, will struggle to keep Smith off the field. Stradford never was healthy last season and dipped to 335 yards.

Fullback is another weak position. Ron Davenport is the incumbent, but the Dolphins would like him to be more consistent. Free agent Marc Logan and oft-injured Tom Brown will compete for time. Shula has indicated that the Dolphins might be using a one-back set more often than in the past.

**RECEIVERS**—Mark Duper was at the center of substance-abuse rumors last season and the Dolphin speedster was suspended for the team's last three games when he missed a drug test. He has caught only 72 passes over the last two seasons and must prove that he is still the big-play performer that he was in past years.

Mark Clayton enjoyed a superb season, catching 86 passes for 1,129 yards and 14 touchdowns. However, he averaged only 13.1 yards per catch and will profit greatly if Duper returns to form.

The Dolphins like backups Fred Banks, Scott Schwedes and versatile Jim Jensen, who came off the bench to catch 58 passes in 1988.

Tight end Ferrell Edmunds caught 33 passes and showed Pro Bowl potential. Veteran Bruce Hardy will help if he is recovered from an ankle injury.

**LINEMEN**—The Dolphins allowed only seven sacks last season, but even Shula admits that statistic is misleading. No one dumps off the ball better than Marino.

And nobody will ever accuse the Dolphin line of being a great run-blocking unit.

Center Dwight Stephenson's career appears to be over. Stephenson sat out the 1988 campaign with a knee injury and wasn't even protected on the Miami roster. Jeff Dellenbach tried to fill his shoes at center and guard Roy Foster tried to fill his shoes as a leader. Neither measured up.

Foster, a Pro Bowler in 1985 and '86, must be more consistent. Guard Harry Galbreath, an eighth-round 1988 draft pick who started as a rookie, already has a



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reputation as a tough competitor.

There will be a lot of pressure on the tackles to provide running room. Veterans Ronnie Lee (right side) and Jon Giesler (left) should get the starting nods. If Mark Dennis can recover from knee surgery, or if Louis Cheek or Greg Johnson matures, the Dolphins will give them good looks.

## DEFENSE

**LINEMEN**—The Dolphins recorded only 24 sacks last season and continue to look for pass-rushing help.

Before a season-ending knee injury to right end John Bosa in the team's eighth game last season, the line was playing as a cohesive, improving unit. Afterward, its play fell off.

Bosa could be back for the start of the season. If not, Jackie Cline will continue to fill the void.

Left end T.J. Turner is solid against the run but doesn't penetrate the enemy backfield. Nose tackle Brian Sochia has his moments, but his start has been better than his finish for the last two years.

The Dolphins will look for help among late-round draftees Greg Ross (Memphis State) and Bert Wiedner (Kent State) at nose tackle and free agent Donald Thorpe at end.

**LINEBACKERS**—The Dolphins signed Junior, former Chicago Bear Greg Clark and former Detroit Lion Dave Ahrens.

Junior and 1988 first-round pick Eric Kumerow lined up as the starters at outside linebacker during the spring minicamp. However, Rick Graf, Hugh Green and Bob Brudzinski will also challenge. The superb John Offerdahl will man one inside spot alongside steady Mark Brown.

Kumerow could line up in either a down or up position, depending on the situation.

Sixth-round draft pick Wes Pritchett (Notre Dame) and ninth-rounder Dana Batiste (Texas A&M) will also get shots at backup duty.

**DEFENSIVE BACKS**—Opposing offenses should not be as successful throwing over the middle as they have been in the past. Oliver and former Florida teammate Jarvis Williams (free safety), the Dolphins' best rookie last year, should correct a major weakness.

The corners will be manned by William Judson and either Don McNeal, Paul Lankford or Rodney Thomas. Lankford lost his starting job to McNeal last year; both could lose it to Thomas in '89.

Other hopefuls are free-agent signees Ernest Gibson and Bobby Watkins and fourth-round draftee David Holmes (Syracuse).

## SPECIAL TEAMS

The Dolphins drafted Indiana place-kicker Pete Stoyanovich in the eighth round as insurance. That's because reliable Fuad Reveiz has spent much of the last two seasons fighting injury problems and his status in 1989 is uncertain. Stoyanovich is capable from long range.

Punter Reggie Roby is solid, but he hurt his back in the off-season while lifting weights. He is expected to be back. ■

# DOLPHINS DATA

## 1989 ROSTER

QUARTERBACKS	Ht./Wt.	NFL Exp.	College	1988 Games GP/GS
Marino, Dan	6-4/222	7	Pittsburgh	16/16
Pease, Brent	6-2/200	3	Montana	*13/0
Rubbert, Ed	6-5/222	2	Louisville	*0/0
Stoudt, Cliff	6-4/215	11	Youngstown State	*16/2
RUNNING BACKS	Ht./Wt.	NFL Exp.	College	1988 Games GP/GS
Brown, Tom (FB)	6-1/220	1	Pittsburgh	1R
Davenport, Ron (FB)	6-2/232	5	Louisville	16/5
Hampton, Lorenzo	5-11/208	5	Florida	16/10
Logan, Marc (FB)	5-11/225	3	Kentucky	*9/0
Smith, Sammie	6-2/224	D1a	Florida State	—
Stark, Chad	6-1/225	1	North Dakota State	1R
Starr, Eric	5-9/200	2	North Carolina	*1R
Stradford, Troy	5-9/192	3	Boston College	15/6
White, Gerald	5-11/223	2	Michigan	*0/0
RECEIVERS	Ht./Wt.	NFL Exp.	College	1988 Games GP/GS
Banks, Fred	5-10/180	4	Liberty (Va.)	11/2
Clayton, Mark	5-9/184	7	Louisville	16/16
Duper, Mark	5-9/190	8	Northwestern (La.)	St. 13/13
Edmunds, Ferrell (TE)	6-6/248	2	Maryland	16/14
Glover, Deval	5-11/185	D10a	Syracuse	—
Hardy, Bruce (TE)	6-4/234	11	Arizona State	2/2
Jensen, Jim	6-4/220	9	Boston University	16/4
Kinchen, Brian (TE)	6-2/238	2	Louisiana State	16/0
Markland, Jeff (TE)	6-3/245	1	Illinois	*1/0
Schwedes, Scott	6-0/182	3	Syracuse	16/1
Teal, Jimmy	5-11/175	5	Texas A&M	*2/0
DEFENSIVE LINEBACKERS	Ht./Wt.	NFL Exp.	College	1988 Games GP/GS
Cheek, Louis (T)	6-6/295	2	Texas A&M	15/0
Conlin, Chris (C)	6-3/280	2	Penn State	1R
Dellenbach, Jeff (C)	6-5/280	5	Wisconsin	16/16
Dennis, Mark (T)	6-6/290	3	Illinois	13/7
Foster, Roy (G)	6-4/275	8	Southern California	15/15
Galbreath, Harry (G)	6-1/275	2	Tennessee	16/13
Giesler, Jon (T)	6-5/272	11	Michigan	13/9
Johnson, Greg (G)	6-4/295	2	Oklahoma	2/0
Lee, Ronnie (T)	6-3/275	11	Baylor	16/16
Pettyjohn, Barry (T)	6-5/280	1	Pittsburgh	*0/0
Toth, Tom (G)	6-5/282	4	Western Michigan	9/4
Uhlenhake, Jeff (C)	6-3/275	D5	Ohio State	—
Zedlar, Jim (T)	6-4/290	D7	Youngstown State	—
DEFENSIVE LINEBACKERS	Ht./Wt.	NFL Exp.	College	1988 Games GP/GS
Bosa, John (E)	6-4/273	3	Boston College	6/6
Cline, Jackie (E)	6-5/280	3	Alabama	14/9
Cross, Jeff (E)	6-4/270	2	Missouri	16/1
Hill, Nate (NT)	6-4/275	2	Auburn	14/0
Ross, Greg (NT)	6-2/270	D10b	Memphis State	—
Sochia, Brian (NT)	6-3/275	7	NW Oklahoma State	16/16
Thorpe, Don (E)	6-4/260	4	Illinois	*4/0
Turner, T.J. (E)	6-4/280	4	Houston	16/16
Weidner, Bert (T)	6-2/260	D11	Kent State	—
LINEBACKERS	Ht./Wt.	NFL Exp.	College	1988 Games GP/GS
Ahrens, Dave	6-4/245	9	Wisconsin	*8/0
Batiste, Dana	6-0/235	D9	Texas A&M	—
Brown, Mark	6-2/238	7	Purdue	13/12
Brudzinski, Bob	6-4/233	13	Ohio State	16/0
Clark, Greg	6-1/221	2	Arizona State	*15/0
Frye, David	6-2/227	7	Purdue	8/0
Furjanic, Tony	6-1/228	4	Notre Dame	6/0
Graf, Rick	6-5/249	3	Wisconsin	16/16
Green, Hugh	6-2/225	9	Pittsburgh	16/16
Junior, E.J.	6-3/235	9	Alabama	*16/16
Kumerow, Eric	6-7/260	2	Ohio State	14/0
Offerdahl, John	6-3/237	4	Western Michigan	16/16
Pritchett, Wes	6-5/242	D6	Notre Dame	—
DEFENSIVE BACKS	Ht./Wt.	NFL Exp.	College	1988 Games GP/GS
Brown, Bud (S)	6-0/193	6	Southern Mississippi	16/3
Brown, J.B. (S)	6-0/185	D12	Maryland	—
Gage, Steve (S)	6-3/210	3	Tulsa	*16/1
Gibson, Ernest (CB)	5-10/185	6	Furman	*16/0
Hobley, Liffort (S)	6-0/202	4	Louisiana State	16/13
Holmes, David (S)	6-1/187	D4	Syracuse	—
Judson, William (CB)	6-1/192	8	South Carolina State	16/16
Lankford, Paul (CB)	6-1/190	8	Penn State	13/10
McNeal, Don (CB)	6-0/193	9	Alabama	16/3
Oliver, Louis (S)	6-2/224	D1b	Florida	—
Thomas, Rodney (CB)	5-10/190	2	Brigham Young	12/1
Watkins, Bobby (CB)	5-10/184	8	SW Texas State	*16/0
Williams, Jarvis (S)	5-11/196	2	Florida	16/16
SPECIALISTS	Ht./Wt.	NFL Exp.	College	1988 Games GP/GS
Reveiz, Fuad (K)	5-11/220	5	Tennessee	11/0
Roby, Reggie (P)	6-2/242	7	Iowa	15/0
Royals, Mark (P)	6-4/212	1	Appalachian State	*0/0
Stoyanovich, Pete (K)	5-11/172	D8	Indiana	—

### OTHER FREE AGENTS IN CAMP

Andre Brown, WR; Jerry Brown, OG; Ricardo Cartwright, WR; Jason Cooper, TE; Billy Davis, WR; John Fruhmorgen, G; African Grant, CB; Glenn Holt, WR; Reggie McKinney, RB; L.B. Moon, OT; Scott Mason, DE; Vince Paszek, NT; John Shapiro, WR; Greg Staples, S; Chad Stark, FB; Tom Vettrus, LB; David Weber, QB.

\*Not with Miami in 1988.

†Includes totals with both Miami and another NFL team in 1988.

1R—Injured reserve.

Key to abbreviations on page 160.

## COACHES

Head coach—Don Shula.

Assistant coaches—

George Hill (linebackers).

Tom Olivadotti (defense).

Mel Phillips (defensive backfield).

John Sandusky (assistant head coach/off-

ensive line, run offense).

Larry Seiple (receivers).

Dan Sekanovich (defensive line).

Gary Stevens (quarterbacks/pass of-

fense).

Carl Taseff (offensive backfield).

Junior Wade (strength and conditioning).

Mike Westhoff (special teams).

## RECORDS/RANKINGS

1988 regular-season record: 6-10 (5th in AFC East); 0-8 in division; 3-9 in conference; 4-4 at home; 2-6 on road.

1988 playoff record: None.

1988 team rankings: total offense, 2nd in AFC/5th in NFL; total defense, 13th/26th; rushing offense, 14th/28th; rushing defense, 12th/26th; passing offense, 1st/1st; passing defense, 9th/14th; scoring offense, 10th/17th; scoring defense, 13th/24th; takeaways, T10th/T21st; giveaways, T11th/T19th; turnover differential, 11th/20th; sacks, 12th/25th; sacks allowed, 1st/1st.

Shula's regular-season record: 190-88-2 in 19 seasons with Dolphins; 261-111-6 in 26 NFL seasons overall.

Shula's postseason record: 18-13 in playoffs with Dolphins and Colts (2-4 in Super Bowls).

Team record last five years: 48-31 (.608, ranks T6th in league in that span).

## 1989 SCHEDULE

Sept. 10	—Buffalo
Sept. 17	—at New England
Sept. 24	—New York Jets
Oct. 1	—at Houston
Oct. 8	—Cleveland
Oct. 15	—at Cincinnati
Oct. 22	—Green Bay
Oct. 29	—at Buffalo
Nov. 5	—Indianapolis
Nov. 12	—at New York Jets
Nov. 19	—at Dallas
Nov. 26	—Pittsburgh
Dec. 3	—at Kansas City
Dec. 10	—New England
Dec. 17	—at Indianapolis
Dec. 24	—Kansas City

## 1988 RESULTS

Sept. 4	—at Chicago	7-34
Sept. 11	—at Buffalo	6-9
Sept. 18	—Green Bay	24-17
Sept. 25	—at Indianapolis	13-15
Oct. 2	—Minnesota	24-7
Oct. 9	—at L.A. Raiders	24-14
Oct. 16	—San Diego	31-28
Oct. 23	—N.Y. Jets	30-44
Oct. 30	—at Tampa Bay	17-14
Nov. 6	—at New England	10-21
Nov. 13	—Buffalo	6-31
Nov. 20	—New England	3-6
Nov. 27	—at N.Y. Jets	34-38
Dec. 4	—Indianapolis	28-31
Dec. 12	—Cleveland	38-31
Dec. 18	—at Pittsburgh	24-40

## 1988 LEADERS

Scoring (kicking): Fuad Reveiz, 55 pts. (31/32 PATs, 8/12 FGs).

Scoring (touchdowns): Mark Clayton, 84 pts. (14 receiving).

Passing: Dan Marino, 4,434 yds. (606 att., 354 comp., 58.4%, 28 TDs, 23 int.).

Rushing: Lorenzo Hampton, 414 yds. (3.5 avg., 9 TDs).

Receptions: Mark Clayton, 86 (1,129 yds., 13.1 avg., 14 TDs).

Interceptions: Jarvis Williams, 4 (62 yds., 0 TDs); William Judson, 4 (57 yds., 0 TDs).

Tackles: John Offerdahl, 117 (99 solo, 18 assisted).

Sacks: T.J. Turner, 5 (22 yds.).

Punting: Reggie Roby, 43.0 avg. (64 punts, 2,754 yds., 0 blocked).

Punt returns: Scott Schwedes, 9.6 avg. (24 att., 230 yds., 0 TDs).

Kickoff returns: Joe Cribbs, 21.0 avg. (41 att., 863 yds., 0 TDs).



# Patriots need to throw more, remain injury-free

By KEVIN MANNIX  
Boston Herald

**S**o, where do the New England Patriots go from here?

After two seasons of virtually running in place, almost anywhere would be welcome. The Patriots finished 8-7 in 1987, missing the National Football League playoffs, and 9-7 last season, again falling short in a bid for a postseason berth.

This is a team on a tightrope. Its offense, normally suspect, is young, talented and capable of putting a lot of points on the board. Its defense, normally solid, lacks depth.

Much could depend on whether the Patriots have enough depth to compensate for the injuries that always follow them like a black cloud. Despite their inordinate number of injuries at key positions in recent years, the Patriots continued to win because their backups actually were front-line players.

But that's no longer the case. In fact, if starters at running back, quarterback, wide receiver or in the defensive backfield go down, the drop-off in talent and productivity will be considerable.

Whether Coach Raymond Berry's eternal optimism and single-minded devotion to winning are strong enough to offset the Patriots' most obvious problems remains to be seen. But there's no doubt that he won't let them go down without a fight.

## COACHING

This will be a critical year for Berry. After leading the Patriots to the Super

## AT A GLANCE

**Strengths:** The starting offensive unit has the ability to put points on the board. Defensively, the secondary is solid and the line has the potential to be the best in franchise history.

**Weaknesses:** This may be as thin a team as the Pats have fielded in the '80s. A number of positions are only starter-deep, making them vulnerable to even minor injuries. Eason has to regain the support of both fans and teammates after his injury-plagued 1987 and '88 campaigns.

**Key to success:** John Stephens must remain healthy. With him, the Pats are as good a running team as any in the league, particularly if Eason can pick his spots with the short passes. Without Stephens playing at his 1988 level, this team is going nowhere.

**Sure sign of trouble:** If new Owner Victor Klam starts interfering in the on-field operation of the club.

**That's a fact:** The Pats have been above .500 after four games only once in the '80s. Berry has changed his training camp regimen in hopes of getting the team off to a faster start.

**The head coach says:** "I believe we have a legitimate chance to win the world championship in 1989 because of the development of our running game during 1988 and the continued improvement of our defense. The key to our season is the ability of Tony Eason to return to his 1985 and 1986 form."



*John Stephens exploded into the NFL last year with a 1,168-yard rookie campaign, which included five 100-yard games.*

Bowl in 1985, his first full year as head coach, and into the playoffs again in '86, his team has fallen short two times.

Berry has provided stability and unquestioned leadership, but his game-day coaching has left a lot to be desired. His game plans are remarkably vanilla considering the weapons he has in his arsenal. In fact, the Patriots' success can be attributed to their defense and special teams, areas that Berry leaves to his other coaches.

There was hope that he would finally open up his offense at the end of last year when he released offensive coordinator Rod Humenuik and passing game coordinator Les Steckel. But instead of hiring an innovator to infuse some life into the offense, Berry took the job himself.

## OFFENSE

**QUARTERBACKS**—This has become an area of legitimate concern. For the last four years, the Patriots have boasted about their two starting quarterbacks—Tony Eason and Steve Grogan. Now Grogan no longer fits that description and the brittle Eason has made only six appearances in the last two seasons.

Grogan, worn down from 14 seasons of bumps and bruises, will remain as a third-string safety valve. Eason should win the starting job over erratic Doug Flutie.

In 1986, Eason's last healthy season, he led the Patriots to a first-place finish in the AFC East and a playoff berth. He's a strong-armed passer who is capable of getting the ball into the hands of New England's explosive wide receivers.

Flutie, the people's choice because of his diminutive stature and outstanding college career at Boston College, led the Pats to a 6-3 record after taking over in the sixth game. But that record is deceptive. Flutie completed more than 10 passes only twice in those nine games and, by the end of the season, opponents were paying the passing game only cursory attention while playing eight-man fronts to take away the running game.

**RUNNING BACKS**—John Stephens, the Patriots' 1988 first-round draft pick, exploded into the NFL with a 1,168-yard rookie campaign. He was the No. 1 reason why the Pats were able to recover from a 2-4 start and make a late run at the playoffs.

After New England's passing game fell apart in the first six weeks, Berry went to a ball-control offense and Stephens made his coach look like a genius. He rushed for more than 100 yards five times, mostly against stacked defenses, and lost only one fumble all year.

Robert Perryman will return as the starting fullback with veteran Mosi Tatu-pu in reserve. Reggie Dupard, a first-round pick in 1986, and Marvin Allen, a second-year man, will provide backup help for Stephens and see duty as pass-receiving backs on long yardage. Craig James, injured the last two seasons, doesn't figure in the team's plans.

**RECEIVERS**—First-round draft pick Hart Lee Dykes (Oklahoma State) and tight

*Continued*

AFC EAST

NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS

AFC EAST



end Marv Cook (Iowa) add much-needed depth to what should be a strong unit.

Although the Pats had the AFC's least-productive passing offense a year ago (135.8 yards per game), Stanley Morgan and Irving Fryar were hardly to blame. They did not get their hands on the ball often enough and were forced to assume more of a blocking role. That must change.

Dykes will join a backup cast that includes veteran Cedric Jones, untried Sammy Martin and free-agent pickup Mike Jones.

Cook, who needs a lot of work on his blocking, will battle second-year man Steve Johnson and veterans Russ Francis and Lin Dawson for a starting job.

**LINEMEN**—Right tackle Bruce Armstrong and guards Sean Farrell and Ron Wooten enjoyed big 1988 seasons. They are the key players on this unit. The center and left tackle spots are less secure.

Trevor Matich started the season at center and didn't play badly. But when the team fell apart, he was the designated scapegoat and was replaced by Mike Baab. The productivity didn't increase. Tackle Danny Villa is a powerful run blocker, but he's slow-footed and has trouble with quicker defensive linemen.

Look for free-agent acquisitions David Viane and David Douglas to be tried at both positions. Veteran Paul Fairchild can play either guard or tackle, while young tackle Tom Rehder has promise.

## DEFENSE

**LINEMEN**—With regular ends Kenneth Sims and Garin Veris sitting on the sideline nursing injuries, the Patriots lined up with ends Brent Williams and Milford Hodge and nose tackle Tim Goad across their front for most of the 1988 season. That trio was surprisingly effective.

Goad, a fourth-round 1988 draft pick, stepped in as a starter in the fourth week and effectively clogged up the middle, giving the Pats' inside linebackers room to maneuver.

With Sims and Veris healthy, look for Williams to move back into the middle and share time with Goad. Hodge and free-agent acquisition Gary Jeter, a pass-rushing specialist, should provide excellent backup help at the end positions.

**LINEBACKERS**—The Patriots have their own version of Mr. Inside and Mr. Outside with Johnny Rembert and Andre Tippett, both Pro Bowl selections last season. Rembert is a versatile athlete who defends well against both the pass and run, while Tippett is simply one of the best linebackers in the game.

Ed Reynolds complemented Rembert well on the inside but could have problems fighting off the challenge of Vincent Brown, the Pats' talented second-round 1988 draft pick. Brown is a Matt Miller type—big, tough and able to take on guards at the line and jam plays before they get started.

Veteran Lawrence McGrew was shifted back to outside linebacker last season and was generally ineffective, but he still is expected to win the starting job over Ed Williams and Tim Jordan.

# PATRIOTS DATA

## 1989 ROSTER

QUARTERBACKS	Ht./Wt.	NFL Exp.	College	1988 Games GP/GS
Eason, Tony	6-4/212	7	Illinois	2/2
Flutie, Doug	5-10/175	4	Boston College	11/9
Grogan, Steve	6-4/210	15	Kansas State	6/4
Wilson, Marc	6-6/205	9	Brigham Young	*0/0
RUNNING BACKS	Ht./Wt.	NFL Exp.	College	1988 Games GP/GS
Allen, Marvin	5-10/215	2	Tulane	11/0
Dupard, Reggie	5-11/205	4	Southern Methodist	16/2
Hinz, Tony	6-2/215	D11	Harvard	—
James, Craig	6-0/215	5	Southern Methodist	6/0
Mitchel, Eric	6-0/210	D6	Oklahoma	—
Norris, Darron	5-9/215	D9a	Texas	—
Perryman, Robert	6-1/233	3	Michigan	16/16
Stephens, John	6-1/220	2	Northwestern (La.) St.	16/14
Tatupu, Mosi	6-0/227	12	Southern California	16/0
RECEIVERS	Ht./Wt.	NFL Exp.	College	1988 Games GP/GS
Cook, Marv (TE)	6-4/250	D3a	Iowa	—
Dawson, Lin (TE)	6-3/240	8	North Carolina State	6/6
Dykes, Hart Lee	6-4/218	D1	Oklahoma State	—
Francis, Russ (TE)	6-6/242	14	Oregon	12/8
Fryar, Irving	6-0/200	6	Nebraska	15/14
Gadbois, Dennis	6-1/183	3	Boston University	2/0
Johnson, Steve (TE)	6-6/245	2	Virginia Tech	14/3
Jones, Cedric	6-1/184	8	Duke	16/2
Jones, Mike	5-11/183	7	Tennessee State	*0/0
Martin, Sammy	5-11/172	2	Louisiana State	16/0
McGuire, Kennard	5-10/170	1	Tennessee	IR
Morgan, Stanley	5-11/181	13	Tennessee	16/14
Scott, Willie (TE)	6-4/245	9	South Carolina	3/1
Sievers, Eric (TE)	6-4/238	9	Maryland	*6/0
Stallings, Robert (TE)	6-6/265	1	Southern Mississippi	*0/0
Timpson, Michael	5-10/175	D4b	Penn State	—
OFFENSIVE LINEMEN	Ht./Wt.	NFL Exp.	College	1988 Games GP/GS
Armstrong, Bruce (T)	6-4/284	3	Louisville	16/16
Baab, Mike (C)	6-4/270	8	Texas	15/12
Douglas, David (T)	6-4/280	4	Tennessee	*14/0
Fairchild, Paul (G)	6-4/270	6	Kansas	16/3
Farrell, Sean (G)	6-3/260	8	Penn State	15/15
Matich, Trevor (C)	6-4/270	5	Brigham Young	8/6
Rehder, Tom (T)	6-7/280	2	Notre Dame	16/0
Viane, David (T)	6-5/300	1	Minnesota-Duluth	*IR
Villa, Danny (T)	6-5/305	3	Arizona State	16/14
Wilson, Curtis (G)	6-3/290	D9b	Missouri	—
Wooten, Ron (G)	6-4/273	8	North Carolina	14/14
DEFENSIVE LINEMEN	Ht./Wt.	NFL Exp.	College	1988 Games GP/GS
Gannon, Chris (E)	6-6/265	D3b	Southwestern Louisiana	—
Goad, Tim (NT)	6-3/280	2	North Carolina	16/14
Hodge, Milford (E)	6-3/278	4	Washington State	15/7
Jeter, Gary (E)	6-4/260	13	Southern California	*15/1
McNeil, Emanuel (NT)	6-3/285	D10	Tennessee-Martin	—
Sims, Kenneth (E)	6-5/271	8	Texas	1/1
Veris, Garin (E)	6-4/255	5	Stanford	11/9
Williams, Brent (E)	6-3/278	4	Toledo	16/16
LINEBACKERS	Ht./Wt.	NFL Exp.	College	1988 Games GP/GS
Brown, Vincent	6-2/245	2	Mississippi Valley State	16/3
Chubb, Aaron	6-5/235	D12	Georgia	—
Jordan, Tim	6-3/226	3	Wisconsin	16/6
Lindstrom, Eric	6-3/235	D7	Boston College	—
McGrew, Lawrence	6-5/233	9	Southern California	16/15
Rembert, Johnny	6-3/242	7	Clemson	16/15
Reynolds, Ed	6-5/234	7	Virginia	14/14
Tippett, Andre	6-3/241	8	Iowa	12/11
Ward, David	6-2/232	2	Southern Arkansas	IR
Williams, Ed	6-4/244	5	Texas	IR
DEFENSIVE BACKS	Ht./Wt.	NFL Exp.	College	1988 Games GP/GS
Bowman, Jim (S)	6-2/210	5	Central Michigan	16/1
Clayborn, Raymond (CB)	6-1/186	13	Texas	16/16
Coleman, Eric (CB)	6-0/190	D2	Wyoming	—
Holmes, Darryl (S)	6-2/190	3	Fort Valley (Ga.) State	16/0
Hurst, Maurice (CB)	5-10/185	D4a	Southern	—
James, Roland (S)	6-2/191	10	Tennessee	15/15
Lippett, Ronnie (CB)	5-11/180	7	Miami (Fla.)	15/15
Marion, Fred (S)	6-2/191	8	Miami (Fla.)	16/16
McSwain, Rod (CB)	6-1/198	6	Clemson	16/1
Rice, Rodney (CB)	5-8/180	D8a	Brigham Young	—
Zackery, Tony (CB)	6-2/195	D8b	Washington	—
SPECIALISTS	Ht./Wt.	NFL Exp.	College	1988 Games GP/GS
Bell, Barry (K)	5-10/168	1	Fresno State	0/0
Davis, Greg (K)	5-11/197	3	The Citadel	*16/0
Feagles, Jeff (P)	6-0/198	2	Miami (Fla.)	16/0
Robbins, Monte (P)	6-4/210	1	Michigan	0/0
Staurouy, Jason (K)	5-9/170	3	Tulsa	8/0
OTHER FREE AGENTS IN CAMP	Ht./Wt.	NFL Exp.	College	1988 Games GP/GS
Glenn Antrun, WR; Londale Bankston, RB; Billy Coats, RB; Terrence Cooks, LB; Darryl Darling, DL; Creighton Incorminias, OT; Howard Figgins, CB; Chris Kolodziej, K; Mike McGee, RB; Boo Merritt, LB; Jim Norris, DB; Tim Norton, QB; Chuck Pellegrini, G; Peter Short, DL; Todd White, WR; Brett Wiese, G; Peter Wilkins, LB.				

\*Not with New England in 1988.  
IR—Injured reserve.  
Key to abbreviations on page 160.

## COACHES

**Head coach**—Raymond Berry.  
**Assistant coaches**—  
Don Blackmon (assistant linebackers).  
Jimmy Carr (defensive backfield).  
Bobby Grier (offensive backfield).  
Ray Hamilton (assistant defensive line).  
Harold Jackson (receivers).  
Eddie Khayat (defensive line).  
Guy Morris (offensive line).  
John Polonchek (special assistant to head coach).  
Keith Rowen (special teams/tight ends).  
Don Shinnick (linebackers).  
Jerry Simmons (strength and conditioning).  
Richard Wood (quarterbacks).

## RECORDS/RANKINGS

**1988 regular-season record:** 9-7 (T2nd in AFC East); 5-3 in division; 7-5 in conference; 7-1 at home; 2-6 on road.

**1988 playoff record:** None.

**1988 team rankings:** total offense, 14th in AFC; 27th in NFL; total defense, 2nd/5th; rushing offense, 7th/9th; rushing defense, 7th/19th; passing offense, 14th/27th; passing defense, 2nd/3rd; scoring offense, 13th/24th; scoring defense, 2nd/5th; takeaways, 5th/T12th; giveaways, 13th/23rd; turnover differential, 10th/19th; sacks, 11th/24th; sacks allowed, 2nd/2nd.

**Berry's regular-season record:** 43-28 in 5 seasons with Patriots.

**Berry's postseason record:** 3-2 in playoffs with Patriots (0-1 in Super Bowl).

**Team record last five years:** 48-31 (.608, ranks 16th in league in that span).

## 1989 SCHEDULE

Sept. 10	at New York Jets
Sept. 17	at Miami
Sept. 24	at Seattle
Oct. 1	at Buffalo
Oct. 8	at Houston
Oct. 15	at Atlanta
Oct. 22	at San Francisco
Oct. 29	at Indianapolis
Nov. 5	at New York Jets
Nov. 12	at New Orleans
Nov. 19	at Buffalo
Nov. 26	at Los Angeles Raiders
Dec. 3	at Indianapolis
Dec. 10	at Miami
Dec. 17	at Pittsburgh
Dec. 24	at Los Angeles Rams

## 1988 RESULTS

Sept. 4	at N.Y. Jets	28-3
Sept. 11	at Minnesota	6-36
Sept. 18	at Buffalo	14-16
Sept. 25	at Houston	6-31
Oct. 2	at Indianapolis	21-17
Oct. 9	at Green Bay	3-45
Oct. 16	at Cincinnati	27-21
Oct. 23	at Buffalo	20-23
Oct. 30	at Chicago	30-7
Nov. 6	at Miami	21-10
Nov. 13	at N.Y. Jets	14-13
Nov. 20	at Miami	6-3
Nov. 27	at Indianapolis	21-24
Dec. 4	at Seattle	13-7
Dec. 11	at Tampa Bay (OT)	10-7
Dec. 17	at Denver	10-21

## 1988 LEADERS

**Scoring (kicking):** Jason Staurouy, 35 pts. (14/15 PATS, 7/11 FGs).

**Scoring (touchdowns):** Robert Perryman, 36 pts. (6 rushing).

**Passing:** Doug Flutie, 1,150 yds. (179 att., 92 comp., 51.4%, 8 TDs, 10 int.).

**Rushing:** John Stephens, 1,168 yds. (3.9 avg., 4 TDs).

**Receptions:** Reggie Dupard, 34 (232 yds., 6.8 avg., 0 TDs).

**Interceptions:** Raymond Clayborn, 4 (65 yds., 0 TDs); Fred Marion, 4 (47 yds., 0 TDs); Roland James, 4 (30 yds., 0 TDs).

**Tackles:** Fred Marion, 138 (94 solo, 44 assisted).

**Sacks:** Brent Williams, 8 (59 yds.).

**Punting:** Jeff Feagles, 38.3 avg. (91 punts, 3,482 yds., 0 blocked).

**Punt returns:** Irving Fryar, 10.5 avg. (38 att., 398 yds., 0 TDs).

**Kickoff returns:** Sammy Martin, 23.7 avg. (31 att., 735 yds., 1 TD).



**DEFENSIVE BACKS**—With the loss of unprotected free agents Ernest Gibson and Eugene Profit, depth became a problem on this unit. That's why the Pats drafted three defensive backs, including second-rounder Eric Coleman (Wyoming).

The starting cast should remain intact: Ronnie Lippett and Raymond Clayborn at the corners, Fred Marion at free safety and Roland James at strong safety. Marion led the Patriots in tackles (138) for the third straight season and is a superb coverage man.

The starters need to stay healthy because backup cornerman Rod McSwain is inconsistent and backup safeties Jim Bowman and Darryl Holmes have been generally unimpressive.

### SPECIAL TEAMS

New England ranked third in the league in punt coverage, third in kickoff returns and fourth in punt returns. But their kicking game was a disaster.

Teddy Garcia, a fourth-round 1988 draft pick, beat out Tony Franklin for the job and then missed five of 16 extra-point attempts and six of 10 field-goal tries beyond the 30-yard line. He was replaced by free agent Jason Staurovsky, who missed a 27-yard field-goal attempt in the closing moments of a three-point loss to Indianapolis. Free-agent pickup Greg Davis (Atlanta) is expected to win the job in '89.

Rookie Jeff Feagles averaged only 38.3 yards per punt but showed excellent hang time.

Fryar averaged 10.5 yards on punt returns, third best in the AFC. Martin averaged 23.7 yards on kickoff returns, fifth best in the AFC. ■



*Andre Tippett is simply one of the best linebackers in the game.*

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# Rebuilt Jets finally going in right direction

By PETER FINNEY JR.  
New York Post

**W**hen New York Jets Owner Leon Hess extended Joe Walton's contract through 1991, the announcement came December 7, 1988. Some thought it significant that this strong vote of confidence was extended on Pearl Harbor Day.

Will it be a day that lives in infamy? Or will it go down in sports history books as a stroke of genius? As with most questions about the Jets, there are no pat answers. But this does appear to be a team that finally is headed in the right direction.

The Jets, who had won just 12 of their previous 34 regular-season games when Walton received the contract extension, finished 8-7-1 last season with victories in the final two weeks that helped bump Indianapolis and the cross-river New York Giants from the playoffs.

There was substantial improvement in the Jets' secondary and offensive line, and Walton should be given credit for his off-season overhaul of an aging team. The Jets are still a National Football League-caliber defense away from making the playoffs, but their 1989 draft addressed a woeful pass rush with nine defensive picks, including the first four.

Walton's offense does not make many mistakes (the Jets led the AFC in 1988 with a plus-13 turnover ratio) and can pile up the points (sixth in the NFL with 372). But the defense, despite its influx of new



*The Jets must find a way to get the ball deep to Al Toon, who led the league in receptions last year but averaged just 11.5 yards per catch.*

blood, will have to jell without talented defensive coordinator Bud Carson, who took the head coaching job in Cleveland.

## COACHING

One of the Jets' strengths was their coaching staff, which had remained virtually intact since 1986. Now Carson and offensive line coach Dan Radakovich are in Cleveland, replaced by Ralph Hawkins (Seattle) and Rod Humenuik (New England).

Hawkins is less a gambler than the blitz-minded Carson, but he'll have more to work with. Humenuik was the offensive coordinator for the Patriots. Many believe that secondary coach Mike Faulkner is the best young mind on this staff.

## OFFENSE

**QUARTERBACKS**—The Jets made a long-term commitment to Ken O'Brien when they signed him to a three-year contract after he had played out his option in 1988. But questions will have to be answered about his throwing arm.

O'Brien was benched for four weeks, and the club later announced that he was suffering from bicep tendinitis, a potentially chronic ailment. O'Brien, a career 60 percent passer, was missing wide-open targets. But O'Brien closed the season on a high, coming off the bench twice to rally the Jets to victories and then going all the way in a 27-21 triumph over the Giants.

O'Brien takes a lot of punishment because he holds the ball too long. Protection is more vital to him than to other quarterbacks who slide well in the pocket.

Backup Pat Ryan is a fiery leader who

improvises well but can't put much zip on his deep throws.

**RUNNING BACKS**—Walton's halfback rotation system with Freeman McNeil and Johnny Hector is paying dividends. McNeil stayed healthy for all 16 games (a first), averaged 13.6 carries per game and ran for a team-leading 944 yards. Hector followed with 561 yards on 137 carries.

McNeil isn't as quick to the corner as he used to be, but the reduced workload kept him at the top of his game. Hector is a strong inside runner whose leaping ability has made him lethal in short-yardage and goal-line situations. He has scored 21 rushing touchdowns over the last two years. Both McNeil and Hector are excellent receivers.

Fullback Roger Vick, who was so easily tossed aside by blitzing linebackers as a rookie in 1987, improved both his blocking and running last season. But he will remain fumble-prone until he learns to carry the ball in the correct hand.

**RECEIVERS**—At one point last season, Al Toon was averaging less than 10 yards per catch. He finished at 11.5, the same average compiled by tight end Mickey Shuler.

Toon's NFL-leading 93 catches were the focus of the Jets' offense, but Walton must find a way to get him the ball deeper this year. Toon, a Pro Bowl selection, has the speed and leaping ability to be a lethal deep threat.

Conversely, Wesley Walker, the Jets' 34-year-old home run hitter, never gets the ball on short patterns. He went without a catch in five of seven games in the middle of the schedule and needs to get his hands on the ball more often.

Depth is a problem. JoJo Townsell has problems getting open, so the Jets drafted Tony Martin, a speedy converted quarterback out of Mesa (Colo.), and little Titus Dixon, a speedster out of Troy (Ala.) State.

Shuler, a Pro Bowl selection who made 70 catches last year, is one of the premier tight ends in the business. Second-year man Keith Neubert will battle K.D. Dunn for a roster spot.

**LINEMEN**—This was the most improved unit on the team, even without a big contribution from tackle Dave Cadigan, the Jets' 1988 first-round pick who missed the last 10 games with a foot injury.

Center Jim Sweeney returned to his old college position and displayed the speed, strength and quick hands to blow most nose tackles off the ball. Mike Haight and veteran Dan Alexander were solid at the guard positions and Jeff Criswell, surprisingly effective when he took over for Cadigan, combined with Reggie McElroy to give the Jets good play at the tackles.

Because of Criswell's progress, Cadigan probably will compete for a starting guard spot. Backup center Guy Bingham is an excellent long-snapper, and Mike Withycombe is a 295-pound guard with good potential.

## AT A GLANCE

**Strengths:** The Jets have vastly improved their offensive line. Al Toon, Mickey Shuler and Wesley Walker are as potent as any receiving corps in the league. The Jets won't have trouble scoring and their special teams are always first-rate.

**Weaknesses:** Though the Jets finished second in the AFC with 45 sacks, that was a credit to Bud Carson's blitzing schemes. Now Carson is gone. After Toon and Walker, there is little depth at wide receiver. Quarterback Ken O'Brien has worn down late in two of the last three seasons, and his right shoulder is a concern.

**Key to success:** The Jets must keep O'Brien healthy and find two or three rookies among the seven linemen and linebackers they drafted who can pressure the passer. No. 1 pick Jeff Lageman, an inside linebacker at Virginia, must make a successful conversion to the outside. Guard Dave Cadigan, the 1988 first-round draft pick who spent the last 10 games on injured reserve, must make an impact.

**Sure sign of trouble:** If anything happens to either O'Brien or Toon.

**That's a fact:** Toon has caught at least three passes in 50 consecutive games.

**The head coach says:** "When we started to restructure this team (in 1988), we felt it was going to take a couple of years. The draft is the only tool you can use. Last year we improved our size and athletic ability in the secondary and on the offensive line. This year we've zeroed in on defense."





## DEFENSE

**LINEMEN**—When Mark Gastineau went into self-imposed retirement last October, the Jets went five of the next seven games without recording a sack. It's no wonder they loaded up on linemen in the draft.

They selected ends Dennis Byrd (Tulsa) in the second round, Ron Stallworth (Auburn) in the fourth, Marvin Washington (Idaho) in the sixth and tackle Pat Marlett (West Virginia) in the ninth.

With all that youth, the Jets need a big season from end Marty Lyons, who recorded a career-high 7½ sacks last year while playing the run brilliantly.

Paul Frase, who took over for Gastineau at left end, is more of a run stopper than pass rusher. Third-year nose tackle Scott Mersereau is strong but needs technique work. Backup Gerald Nichols is probably the best penetrator, but wears down too fast.

**LINEBACKERS**—The boos echoed throughout New York when the Jets made Virginia linebacker Jeff Lageman the 14th overall pick in the draft. The Jets believe they made a good choice.

Lageman has been penciled in as the starter on the right side despite the fact he spent most of his college career on the inside. It is vital for Alex Gordon, the left outside starter, to bounce back strong from his injury-plagued 1988 campaign. Free-agent acquisition Tim Cofield, an aggressive, powerful blitzer, will provide backup help.

On the inside, Kyle Clifton will team with either Kevin McArthur or Troy Benson. Ken Rose is a valuable backup.

**DEFENSIVE BACKS**—There's more speed here than ever before.

Free safety Erik McMillan, who led the AFC with eight interceptions and made the Pro Bowl in his rookie season, shocked his teammates when he chased down speedy Miami receiver Mark Duper after spotting him a five-yard cushion. Strong safety Rich Miano doesn't have prototype size or speed, but usually manages to get the job done.

Right cornerback James Hasty, another rookie last season, started 15 games and showed he could run. Left corner Bobby Humphery is a converted wideout who still makes technique mistakes but is so fast that he can compensate.

Backup cornerback Terry Williams, the Jets' fastest player, spent 1988 on injured reserve and needs work to overcome his small-college background.

## SPECIAL TEAMS

Pat Leahy, the eighth-leading scorer in NFL history (1,190 points), has made 52 of his last 54 field-goal attempts inside 40 yards. That's a tremendous feat in the wind-tunnel conditions at Giants Stadium. Joe Prokop, a left-footed punter, had great hang time last season but needs to improve on his 38.9-yard average.

JoJo Townsell led the AFC in punt returns (an 11.7-yard average) and ran back a 59-yarder for a touchdown against the Colts. Humphery ranked fourth among the league's kickoff returners with a 24.3-yard average. ■

## JETS DATA

### 1989 ROSTER

QUARTERBACKS	Ht./Wt.	NFL Exp.	College	1988 Games GP/GS
Christensen, Jeff	6-2/196	4	Eastern Illinois	0/0
Mackey, Jeff	6-3/216	3	East Texas State	1R
O'Brien, Ken	6-4/200	7	UC-Davis	14/12
Ryan, Pat	6-3/210	12	Tennessee	16/4
RUNNING BACKS	Ht./Wt.	NFL Exp.	College	1988 Games GP/GS
Banks, Chuck	6-0/225	3	West Virginia Tech	0/0
Barber, Marion (FB)	6-3/228	8	Minnesota	16/1
Brown, A.B.	5-9/215	D8	West Virginia	—
Dudek, Joe	6-0/188	1	Plymouth (N.H.) State	0/0
Faola, Nuu	5-11/220	4	Hawaii	16/0
Hector, Johnny	5-11/202	7	Texas A&M	16/1
Konecny, Mark	6-0/200	3	Alma (Mich.)	0/0
McNeil, Freeman	5-11/209	9	UCLA	16/16
Snead, Willie	5-11/186	D12	Florida	—
Vick, Roger (FB)	6-3/228	3	Texas A&M	16/12
RECEIVERS	Ht./Wt.	NFL Exp.	College	1988 Games GP/GS
Andrews, Mitch (TE)	6-2/229	2	Louisiana State	0/0
Dixon, Titus	5-6/148	D6b	Troy State	—
Dunn, K.D. (TE)	6-2/237	5	Clemson	15/2
Harper, Michael	5-10/180	4	Southern California	10/0
Holloway, Steve (TE)	6-1/235	2	Tennessee State	0/0
Jackson, David	5-9/174	1	SE Missouri State	0/0
Martin, Tony	6-0/175	D5	Mesa (Colo.)	—
Neubert, Keith (TE)	6-5/250	1	Nebraska	1R
Riley, Bobby	5-8/168	1	Oklahoma State	1R
Shuler, Mickey (TE)	6-3/231	12	Penn State	15/15
Toon, Al	6-4/205	5	Wisconsin	15/15
Townsell, JoJo	5-9/180	5	UCLA	16/0
Walker, Wesley	6-0/182	13	California	16/10
DEFENSIVE LINEMEN	Ht./Wt.	NFL Exp.	College	1988 Games GP/GS
Alexander, Dan (G)	6-4/274	13	Louisiana State	14/13
Bingham, Guy	6-3/260	10	Montana	10/1
Cadigan, Dave	6-4/285	2	Southern California	5/4
Collier, Steve (T)	6-7/330	2	Bethune-Cookman	0/0
Criswell, Jeff	6-7/284	3	Graceland (La.)	15/12
Haight, Mike	6-4/281	4	Iowa	14/9
McElroy, Reggie (T)	6-6/276	7	West Texas State	16/16
Schreiber, Adam	6-4/277	6	Texas	113/0
Sweeney, Jim	6-4/270	6	Pittsburgh	16/16
Withycombe, Mike	6-5/295	2	Fresno State	6/1
DEFENSIVE LINEMEN	Ht./Wt.	NFL Exp.	College	1988 Games GP/GS
Byrd, Dennis (E)	6-4/268	D2	Tulsa	—
Frase, Paul (E)	6-5/273	2	Syracuse	16/7
Lyons, Marty	6-5/269	11	Alabama	16/16
Marlatt, Pat (T)	6-5/270	D9	West Virginia	—
Mersereau, Scott	6-3/273	3	Southern Connecticut	16/15
Nichols, Gerald	6-2/267	3	Florida State	16/2
Stallworth, Ron (E)	6-4/260	D4	Auburn	—
Washington, Marvin (E)	6-5/245	D6a	Idaho	—
LINEBACKERS	Ht./Wt.	NFL Exp.	College	1988 Games GP/GS
Benson, Troy	6-2/235	4	Pittsburgh	16/16
Bob, Adam	6-2/236	D10	Texas A&M	—
Clifton, Kyle	6-4/236	6	Texas Christian	16/15
Cofield, Tim	6-2/242	4	Eliz. City (N.C.) St.	0/16
Curtis, Bobby	6-2/235	2	Savannah (Ga.) State	1R
Dodge, Kirk	6-1/233	4	Nevada-Las Vegas	0/0
Gordon, Alex	6-5/246	3	Cincinnati	13/12
Hammond, Steve	6-3/225	1	Wake Forest	2/0
Johnson, James	6-2/235	2	San Diego State	0/0
Lageman, Jeff	6-5/247	D1	Virginia	—
McArthur, Kevin	6-2/250	4	Lamar	16/16
Mott, Joe	6-3/245	D3	Iowa	—
Rose, Ken	6-1/204	3	Nevada-Las Vegas	12/0
Walker, Jackie	6-5/245	4	Jackson State	0/16
DEFENSIVE BACKS	Ht./Wt.	NFL Exp.	College	1988 Games GP/GS
Booty, John	6-0/179	2	Texas Christian	16/0
Hasty, James (CB)	6-0/200	2	Washington State	15/15
Holmes, Artie	5-11/205	D11	Washington State	—
Howard, Carl	6-2/190	6	Rutgers	16/1
Humphery, Bobby	5-10/180	6	New Mexico State	16/16
Knight, Leander	6-1/193	1	Montclair (N.J.) State	2/0
McMillan, Erik	6-2/197	2	Missouri	13/13
Miano, Rich	6-0/200	5	Hawaii	16/16
Mitchell, Michael	5-9/192	2	Howard Payne	1R
Moore, Steven (S)	5-11/205	D7	Mississippi	—
Radachowsky, George	5-11/190	4	Boston College	9/3
Rivers, Garland	6-1/181	1	Michigan	0/0
Sterling, Rob (S)	5-11/195	1	Maine	1R
Williams, Terry (CB)	5-11/197	2	Bethune-Cookman	8/0
SPECIALISTS	Ht./Wt.	NFL Exp.	College	1988 Games GP/GS
Leahy, Pat (K)	6-0/196	16	St. Louis	16/0
Prokop, Joe (P)	6-2/224	4	Cal Poly-Pomona	16/0
Wright, Darryl (P)	6-0/185	1	Maryland	0/0

### OTHER FREE AGENTS IN CAMP

Brian Addison, CB; Vince Amoa, RB; Reggie Barnes, RB; Sanjay Beach, WR; Kevin Bryant, LB; Ralph Caldwell, LB; Jeff Davis, LB; Peter Endre, G; Erwin Grabinska, LB; Gregg Harris, G; Reggie Harris, DT; Roland Hawkins, WR; Tim Healy, RB; Carl Holmes, T; Ralph Jarvis, DE; DeShon Jenkins, S; Andre Lockley, T; Erwin Matthews, RB; Willard McDowell, DE; Tony Miller, RB; Rich Negrin, G; Steve Neubert, S; Teddy Newman, LB; Jeff Oliver, G; Darryl Pearson, WR; Toran Schonyers, LB; Danny Sellers, DL; Irvin Smith, S; Randy Tanner, WR; Greg Werner, TE; Clay Whitehurst, WR; Neal Wilkin, TE.

\*Not with N.Y. Jets in 1988.

†Includes totals with both N.Y. Jets and another NFL team in 1988.

IR—Injured reserve.

Key to abbreviations on page 160.

### COACHES

**Head coach**—Joe Walton.

**Assistant coaches**—

Zeke Bratkowski (quarterbacks).  
Ray Callahan (quality control).  
Wally Chambers (defensive line).  
Mike Faulkner (secondary).  
Bobby Hammond (running backs).  
Ralph Hawkins (defensive coordinator).  
Rod Humenuik (offensive line).  
Rich Kotite (offensive line).  
Larry Pasquale (special teams).  
Jim Vecchiarella (linebackers).

### RECORDS/RANKINGS

**1988 regular-season record:** 8-7-1 (4th in AFC East); 3-5 in division; 6-7-1 in conference; 5-2-1 at home; 3-5 on road.

**1988 playoff record:** None.

**1988 team rankings:** total offense, 5th in AFC/13th in NFL; total defense, 11th/23rd; rushing offense, 6th/8th; rushing defense, 8th/21st; passing offense, 8th/19th; passing defense, 12th/23rd; scoring offense, 3rd/6th; scoring defense, 10th/21st; takeaways, 12nd/15th; giveaways, 11st/13rd; turnover differential, 1st/3rd; sacks, 2nd/6th; sacks allowed, 11th/17th.

**Walton's regular-season record:** 49-45-1 in 6 seasons with Jets.

**Walton's postseason record:** 1-2 in playoffs with Jets.

**Team record last five years:** 42-36-1 (.538, ranks 12th in league in that span).

### 1989 SCHEDULE

Sept. 10—New England  
Sept. 17—at Cleveland  
Sept. 24—at Miami  
Oct. 1—Indianapolis  
Oct. 9—Los Angeles Raiders (Mon.)  
Oct. 15—at New Orleans  
Oct. 22—at Buffalo  
Oct. 29—San Francisco  
Nov. 5—at New England  
Nov. 12—Miami  
Nov. 19—at Indianapolis  
Nov. 26—Atlanta  
Dec. 3—at San Diego  
Dec. 10—Pittsburgh  
Dec. 17—at Los Angeles Rams  
Dec. 23—Buffalo (Sat.)

### 1988 RESULTS

Sept. 4—at New England 3-28  
Sept. 11—at Cleveland 23-3  
Sept. 18—Houston 45-3  
Sept. 25—at Detroit 17-10  
Oct. 2—Kansas City (OT) 17-17  
Oct. 9—at Cincinnati 19-36  
Oct. 17—Buffalo 14-37  
Oct. 23—at Miami 44-30  
Oct. 30—Pittsburgh 24-20  
Nov. 6—at Indianapolis 14-38  
Nov. 13—New England 13-14  
Nov. 20—at Buffalo (OT) 6-9  
Nov. 27—Miami 38-34  
Dec. 4—at Kansas City 34-38  
Dec. 10—Indianapolis 34-16  
Dec. 18—N.Y. Giants 27-21

### 1988 LEADERS

**Scoring (kicking):** Pat Leahy, 112 pts. (43/43 PATs, 23/28 FGs).

**Scoring (touchdowns):** Johnny Hector, 60 pts. (10 rushing).

**Passing:** Ken O'Brien, 2,567 yds. (424 att., 236 comp., 55.7%, 15 TDs, 7 int.).

**Rushing:** Freeman McNeil, 944 yds. (4.3 avg., 6 TDs).

**Receptions:** Al Toon, 93 (1,067 yds., 11.5 avg., 5 TDs).

**Interceptions:** Erik McMillan, 8 (168 yds., 2 TDs).

**Tackles:** Kyle Clifton, 162 (115 solo, 47 assisted).

**Sacks:** Marty Lyons, 7½ (62 yds.).

**Punting:** Joe Prokop, 38.9 avg. (85 punts, 3,310 yds., 0 blocked).

**Punt returns:** JoJo Townsell, 11.7 avg. (35 att., 409 yds., 1 TD).

**Kickoff returns:** Bobby Humphery, 24.3 avg. (21 att., 510 yds., 0 TDs).



# Defenseless Broncos searching hard for a cure

By JOSEPH SANCHEZ  
Denver Post

One of these days, the Denver Broncos are going to make it back to the Super Bowl and not get beat by three or four touchdowns.

Maybe that day will be January 28, 1990. That, at least, is the optimistic opinion of Coach Dan Reeves.

"The way the league is set up right now," Reeves said, "it's a lot easier than it used to be to bounce back from a bad season."

With parity drafting "and the way the schedule is set up," Reeves added, "it wouldn't surprise me for us to turn around and win this thing again."

The Broncos struggled to an 8-8 record last season and a second-place finish in the AFC West. After suffering lopsided defeats in Super Bowls XXI and XXII, they were nowhere to be found when the 1988 playoffs began to select the finalists for Super Bowl XXIII.

"We have some weaknesses, yeah," Reeves said. "We had weaknesses when we went to the Super Bowl twice in a row. Every team I know has weaknesses. It's how you deal with them that makes the difference."

Reeves dealt with the Broncos' most glaring weakness during the off-season by firing his entire defensive staff and rebuilding it from the top down. With all due respect to the 20 years of capable service defensive coach Joe Collier put in with the Broncos, that was probably a necessary move.

A defense that was blown away in both



Owner Pat Bowlen (right) demanded changes after Denver struggled last year, so Coach Dan Reeves responded by firing his entire defensive staff.

of Denver's Super Bowl losses needed immediate help, and the Broncos spent their first-round 1988 draft pick on nose tackle Ted Gregory (Syracuse)—an immediate bust. Reeves had never really been embraced by Collier since his arrival as head coach in 1981, and there were increasing signs of disagreement.

Naturally, most of those weaknesses to which Reeves referred still are on defense. But with a new defensive coordinator in Wade Phillips, some fresh talent in safety Steve Atwater (the Broncos' 1989 first-round draft choice out of Arkansas) and lineman Warren Powers (a second-round pick out of Maryland), a couple of other changes in the lineup and a fresh attitude, the Denver defense can't help but improve.

All that leaves, then, is the problem of restoring the offense to its explosive old self. And Reeves believes the answer to that problem is easy: Forget veteran star running back Tony Dorsett, whom the Broncos picked up before the 1988 campaign, and go back to the big-play offense of the 1986 and '87 seasons with John Elway throwing the ball to the "Three Amigos" and as many more receivers as he can crowd into the starting lineup.

## COACHING

There's no denying that Reeves ranks among the best coaches in the National Football League. But one has to question his 1988 strategy, when he took the ball out of Elway's hands and put it in the hands of a 34-year-old running back (Dorsett), creating an awkward offense that never ceased to struggle and, ironically, won only when Collier's defense managed to limit seven of eight opponents to two touchdowns or less.

With Collier gone, responsibility for Denver's defensive resurgence will fall on the shoulders of Phillips, who learned his business on the knee of his daddy, former Houston Oilers coach Bum Phillips. He heads a new defensive staff that includes newcomer Earl Leggett (defensive line) and a couple of former Bronco special

teams assistants—Mike Nolan (linebackers) and Charlie Waters (defensive backs). Also new to the staff is Harold Richardson on special teams.

Phillips' philosophy is in direct opposition to the man he succeeded. "I'm more into attacking the offense," he said. "With me, it's react first and read second."

## OFFENSE

**QUARTERBACKS**—In Denver, there's no guesswork at this position.

On game day, if it isn't Elway it's probably "no way." But Elway himself remembers his 1988 performance as well below his previous standards.

Burnout, arrogant play and a chronic inflammation in the bursa sac of his throwing elbow were all big contributors. But surgeons removed the bursa sac, and an extended off-season cured the burnout.

"I'm ready to go again," Elway said. "I can't wait to get started."

Just in case, backup Gary Kubiak stands at the ready.

**RUNNING BACKS**—Every off-season, every fan and every expert wants to put a big running back in Denver's backfield.

Fine. But let's make sure he can catch the ball, too.

What nobody seems to understand is that in an Elway offense, there is little patience for smash ball when those downs might be better spent trying to hit the big play. Accept that, and the Steve Sewells and the Gerald Willhites of the NFL are perfect fits in the Bronco backfield. If only they could break the big run once in a while!

That means another year of Sewell, Willhite and old reliable Sammy Winder, probably in that order.

Where does Dorsett fit in? That remains to be seen.

**RECEIVERS**—A control receiver? "I don't even know what that is anymore," said offensive coordinator Chan Gailey. "I'm not sure that means anything."

That probably explains why the primary focus will remain on the "Three Amigos"—Mark Jackson, Vance Johnson

## AT A GLANCE

**Strengths:** The passing game, with John Elway and the "Three Amigos" (Mark Jackson, Vance Johnson and Ricky Nattiel), still has the potential to rank as the league's most explosive.

There's nothing wrong with Denver's kicking game, and Karl Mecklenburg and Simon Fletcher keep the Broncos from being totally bankrupt on defense. The addition of Steve Atwater adds promise to the secondary.

**Weaknesses:** The most critical area is probably the defensive line, where an undersized nose tackle, Greg Kragen, has been left to battle offenses by himself. There are many new defensive ends on the roster, but none who is established. Denver used to have a severe problem at cornerback, but Harden's move back to his natural position should help.

**Key to success:** A return to the passing game, more intelligent play from Elway and any improvement by the defense.

**Sure sign of trouble:** If any running back is getting the ball more than 15 times a game or if Mark Haynes is back on the left corner.

**That's a fact:** This is still the winningest team in the AFC over the last five years with 53 victories, 25 losses and one tie.

**The head coach says:** "There isn't that much difference between 8-8 and going to the Super Bowl. We probably know that better than anybody."





and Ricky Nattiel, a talented group that suffered from lack of use last season. Veteran Steve Watson appears to be on his way out.

**LINEMEN**—This is the one area of the offense that will undergo a big change.

An educated guess will have veteran swingman Keith Kartz finally pushing Dave Studdard out at left tackle, especially if the gigantic Gerald Perry can overcome his off-season personal problems and provide backup help. Keith Bishop should start at left guard with Mike Ruether replacing Bill Bryan at center. Guard Jim Juriga should be positioned next to Ken Lanier, a fixture at right tackle. Do not discount Doug Widell, a second-round draft choice out of Boston College. He could be starting at one of the guard positions before the end of the season.

However they line up, they will line up a lot bigger than in recent years.

## DEFENSE

**LINEMEN**—Leggett built his reputation by turning second-round draft choices into Pro Bowlers for the Los Angeles Raiders. That's good news for both the rookie Powers and the Broncos.

Denver's desperation in the defensive line is so intense that it would not be surprising to see a complete new lineup featuring two gigantic rookies, Powers and Richard McCullough (fourth round, Clemson), as the bookends flanking either Greg Kragen or Andre Townsend at nose tackle.

**LINEBACKERS**—Karl Mecklenburg is the Broncos' best defensive player and Simon Fletcher is their rising star.

That locks up the left side, but the right-side starters are yet to be decided. Best guess? Probably Michael Brooks moving from an outside to inside job alongside Randy Thornton.

Weary of being pushed around by opponents' running attacks, the Broncos are determined to add size to their defense, which probably will relegate veteran starters Rick Dennison and Jim Ryan to backup duty.

**DEFENSIVE BACKS**—By drafting Atwater, the Broncos improved themselves in two positions—at free safety, where Atwater will line up, and at right cornerback, where veteran Mike Harden will return to replace the undersized Jeremiah Castille.

That should give Denver true twin safeties in the 6-3, 215-pound Atwater and the 6-3, 200-pound Dennis Smith.

The left corner will be manned by either veteran Mark Haynes, who appears to be on his way out, or former Minnesota Viking Wymon Henderson, who appears to be on his way in.

The last time Denver shut down the power sweep was when Harden and Louis Wright were on the corners.

## SPECIAL TEAMS

In Mike Horan, the Broncos had the AFC's Pro Bowl punter last season (a 44-yard average) and one of the best corner kickers in the game. In Rich Karlis, they have one of the league's most productive placekickers. No change. ■

# BRONCOS DATA

## 1989 ROSTER

QUARTERBACKS	Ht./Wt.	NFL Exp.	College	1988 Games GP/GS
Elway, John	6-3/210	7	Stanford	15/15
Karcher, Ken	6-3/205	3	Tulane	1/0
Kubiak, Gary	6-0/192	7	Texas A&M	16/1
RUNNING BACKS				
Bell, Ken	5-10/190	4	Boston College	16/0
Bratton, Melvin	6-1/225	D7	Miami (Fla.)	—
Dorsett, Tony	5-11/189	13	Pittsburgh	16/13
Goode, Kerry	5-11/203	2	Alabama	*14/5
Sewell, Steve	6-3/210	5	Oklahoma	16/3
Ware, Reggie	6-1/240	1	Auburn	*IR
Willhite, Gerald	5-10/200	8	San Jose State	11/1
Williams, Wayne	5-10/197	D9b	Florida	—
Winder, Sammy	5-11/203	1	Southern Mississippi	16/12
RECEIVERS				
Alexander, Jeff	6-0/232	1	Southern	IR
Cosbie, Doug (TE)	6-6/238	11	Santa Clara	*11/4
Green, Paul (TE)	6-2/223	D8	Southern California	—
Jackson, Mark	5-9/180	4	Purdue	12/4
Javis, John	5-10/181	D12	Howard	—
Johnson, Vance	5-11/185	5	Arizona	16/13
Kay, Clarence (TE)	6-2/237	6	Georgia	14/14
Kelly, Pat (TE)	6-6/252	2	Syracuse	16/0
Massie, Rick	6-1/190	3	Kentucky	4/0
Mobley, Orson (TE)	5-9/256	4	Salem (W. Va.)	16/9
Nattiel, Ricky	5-9/180	3	Florida	15/11
Stafford, Anthony	5-8/179	D6	Oklahoma	—
Watson, Steve	6-4/195	10	Temple	IR
Young, Mike	6-1/183	5	UCLA	*8/0
OFFENSIVE LINEMEN				
Bishop, Keith (C/G)	6-3/265	9	Baylor	16/10
Blair, Paul (T)	6-4/295	3	Oklahoma State	*IR
Bryan, Bill (C)	6-2/255	13	Duke	16/16
Contz, Bill (T)	6-5/270	7	Penn State	*11/3
Hamilton, Darrell (OT)	6-5/281	D3	North Carolina	—
Hood, Winford (G)	6-3/262	6	Georgia	3/0
Humphries, Stefan (G)	6-3/268	6	Michigan	1/1
Juriga, Jim (G/T)	6-6/269	2	Illinois	16/15
Kartz, Keith (G/T)	6-4/270	3	California	13/12
Lanier, Ken (T)	6-3/269	9	Florida State	16/16
Perry, Gerald (T)	6-6/305	2	Southern (La.)	16/6
Ruether, Mike (C)	6-4/275	4	Texas	14/0
Smith, Monte (G)	6-4/261	D9a	North Dakota	—
Studdard, Dave (T)	6-4/260	11	Texas	11/4
Widell, Doug	6-4/282	D2a	Boston College	—
DEFENSIVE LINEMEN				
Bryan, Steve (NT)	6-2/256	3	Oklahoma	8/0
Butts, Anthony (DT)	6-3/279	D10	Mississippi State	—
Carreker, Alphonso (E)	6-5/252	6	Florida State	*14/11
Gilbert, Freddie (E)	6-4/275	4	Georgia	13/5
Jones, Ron (E)	6-6/260	10	Utah State	16/0
Knight, Shawn (NT/E)	6-6/288	3	Brigham Young	14/0
Kragen, Greg (NT)	6-3/265	5	Utah State	16/16
McCullough, Richard (E)	6-4/268	D4	Clemson	—
Powers, Warren (E)	6-6/277	D2b	Maryland	—
Provence, Andrew (NT)	6-3/270	6	South Carolina	IR
Townsend, Andre (E/NT)	6-3/265	6	Mississippi	16/16
LINEBACKERS				
Brooks, Michael	6-1/235	3	Louisiana State	16/4
Curtis, Scott	6-1/227	2	New Hampshire	*16/0
Dennison, Rick	6-3/220	8	Colorado State	16/16
Fletcher, Simon	6-5/240	5	Houston	16/16
Klostermann, Bruce	6-4/232	3	South Dakota State	12/5
Lucas, Tim	6-3/230	3	California	16/0
Mecklenburg, Karl	6-3/230	7	Minnesota	9/9
Munford, Marc	6-2/231	3	Nebraska	7/0
Peterson, Blake	6-4/245	1	Mesa (Colo.)	*IR
Ryan, Jim	6-1/225	11	William & Mary	16/14
Thornton, Randy	6-3/220	1	Houston	IR
DEFENSIVE BACKS				
Atwater, Steve (S)	6-3/213	D1	Arkansas	—
Braxton, Tyrone (S)	5-11/174	3	North Dakota State	16/0
Carrington, Darren (CB)	6-1/189	D5	Northern Arizona	—
Castille, Jeremiah (CB)	5-10/175	7	Alabama	16/15
Corrington, Kip (S)	6-0/175	1	Texas A&M	IR
Guidry, Kevin (CB)	6-0/176	2	Louisiana State	14/0
Harden, Mike (S)	6-1/192	10	Michigan	16/16
Haynes, Mark (CB)	5-11/195	10	Colorado	15/15
Henderson, Wymon (CB)	5-9/181	3	Nevada-Las Vegas	*16/0
Robbins, Randy (S)	6-2/189	6	Arizona	16/5
Shelton, Richard (CB)	5-10/180	D11	Liberty-Baptist	—
Smith, Dennis (S)	6-3/200	9	Southern California	11/11
Woodberry, Dennis (CB)	5-10/180	4	Southern Arkansas	*12/0
SPECIALISTS				
DeFrank, Matt (P)	6-2/191	1	Louisiana State	*0/0
Horan, Mike (P)	5-11/190	6	Long Beach State	16/0
Karlis, Rich (K)	6-0/180	8	Cincinnati	16/0
OTHER FREE AGENTS IN CAMP				
David Amend, OG; Corris Ervin, CB; Pat Hegarty, QB; Mike Marquez, S; Bill Michel, OL; Chris Rule, QB; Trint Trip, DL; Kevin Wells, OL; Brian White, OL; Majett Whiteside, DL.				

\*Not with Denver in 1988.

IR—Injured reserve.

Key to abbreviations on page 160.

## COACHES

Head coach—Dan Reeves.

Assistant coaches—

Marvin Bass (special assistant).

Barney Chavous (assistant strength and conditioning).

Mo Forte (running backs).

Chan Gailey (offensive coordinator/wide receivers).

George Henshaw (offensive line).

Earl Leggett (defensive line).

Pete Mangurian (tight ends/assistant offensive line).

Al Miller (strength and conditioning).

Mike Nolan (linebackers).

Wade Phillips (defensive coordinator).

Harold Richardson (special teams).

Charlie Waters (defensive backs).

## RECORDS/RANKINGS

1988 regular-season record: 8-8 (2nd in AFC West); 3-5 in division; 5-7 in conference; 6-2 at home; 2-6 on road.

1988 playoff record: None.

1988 team rankings: total offense, 3rd in AFC/8th in NFL; total defense, 10th/22nd; rushing offense, 11th/19th; rushing defense, 13th/27th; passing offense, 2nd/6th; passing defense, 5th/7th; scoring offense, 8th/15th; scoring defense, 9th/20th; takeaways, 13th/24th; giveaways, 19th/15th; turnover differential, 12th/21st; sacks, 7th/17th; sacks allowed, 8th/12th.

Reeves' regular-season record: 74-45-1 in 8 seasons with Broncos.

Reeves' postseason record: 4-4 in playoffs with Broncos (0-2 in Super Bowls).

Team record last five years: 53-25-1 (.677, ranks 3rd in league in that span).

## 1989 SCHEDULE

Sept. 10—Kansas City	
Sept. 18—at Buffalo (Mon.)	
Sept. 24—Los Angeles Raiders	
Oct. 1—at Cleveland	
Oct. 8—San Diego	
Oct. 15—Indianapolis	
Oct. 22—at Seattle	
Oct. 29—Philadelphia	
Nov. 5—Pittsburgh	
Nov. 12—at Kansas City	
Nov. 20—at Washington (Mon.)	
Nov. 26—Seattle	
Dec. 3—at Los Angeles Raiders	
Dec. 10—New York Giants	
Dec. 16—at Phoenix (Sat.)	
Dec. 24—at San Diego	

## 1988 RESULTS

Sept. 4—Seattle	14-21
Sept. 11—San Diego	34-3
Sept. 18—at Kansas City	13-20
Sept. 26—L.A. Raiders	27-30
Oct. 2—at San Diego	12-0
Oct. 9—at San Francisco (OT)	16-13
Oct. 16—Atlanta	30-14
Oct. 23—at Pittsburgh	21-39
Oct. 31—at Indianapolis	23-55
Nov. 6—Kansas City	17-11
Nov. 13—Cleveland	30-7
Nov. 20—at New Orleans	0-42
Nov. 27—L.A. Rams	35-24
Dec. 4—at L.A. Raiders	20-21
Dec. 11—at Seattle	14-42
Dec. 17—New England	21-10

## 1988 LEADERS

Scoring (kicking): Rich Karlis, 105 pts. (36/37 PATs, 23/36 FGs).

Scoring (touchdowns): Steve Sewell, 36 pts. (1 rushing, 5 receiving); Mark Jackson, 36 pts. (6 receiving).

Passing: John Elway, 3,309 yds. (496 att., 274 comp., 55.2%, 17 TDs, 19 int.).

Rushing: Tony Dorsett, 703 yds. (3.9 avg., 5 TDs).

Receptions: Vance Johnson, 68 (896 yds., 13.2 avg., 5 TDs).

Interceptions: Mike Harden, 4 (36 yds., 0 TDs).

Tackles: Greg Kragen, 140 (101 solo, 39 assisted).

Sacks: Simon Fletcher, 9 (43 yds.).

Punting: Mike Horan, 44.0 avg. (65 punts, 2,861 yds., 0 blocked).

Punt returns: Ricky Nattiel, 9.7 avg. (23 att., 223 yds., 0 TDs).

Kickoff returns: Ken Bell, 21.2 avg. (36 att., 762 yds., 0 TDs).



# Frustrated Chiefs seem to be making headway

By RICK GOSSELIN  
Kansas City Star and Times

**N**ew General Manager Carl Peterson figured to have two substantial weapons in his bid to turn around the fortunes of the lowly Kansas City Chiefs—the fourth overall pick of the 1989 National Football League draft and a last-place schedule.

Peterson used one weapon to select Alabama linebacker Derrick Thomas in the first round, thus addressing Kansas City's most pressing personnel need. But addressing that last-place schedule won't be as easy.

Peterson was the man who built the Philadelphia Stars into the United States Football League's model franchise. The NFL welcomed him back after a six-year absence by issuing him a killer schedule that has his Chiefs playing all four of their AFC West road games in the first six weeks of the season. No other team was issued that challenge.

"We'll find out where we are very quickly," said new Kansas City Coach Marty Schottenheimer.

The NFL sends the Chiefs to San Diego in the heat of September and to Green Bay in the cold of December. The rival Los Angeles Raiders will visit Kansas City the second week, depriving the Chiefs of an automatic home sellout. If the Raider game had been scheduled after October 8, when Bo Jackson switches allegiance from Kansas City's Royals to the Raiders,



*Paul Palmer has been an enigma since his arrival in 1987, making his mark by catching — not running — the football.*

Arrowhead Stadium would have been filled to the brim.

## COACHING

In his four complete seasons as an NFL head coach, Marty Schottenheimer took the Cleveland Browns to the playoffs four times, won three AFC Central titles and reached the AFC championship game twice. But when he was asked by Owner Art Modell to make some changes on his coaching staff last December, Schottenheimer balked—and walked.

He was wooed by both the 6-10 San Diego Chargers and the 4-11-1 Chiefs before deciding on Kansas City. He brought seven members of his Cleveland staff with him and added former San Diego head coach Al Saunders (receivers), former Pittsburgh defensive coordinator Tony Dungy (secondary) and former Temple coach Bruce Arians (running backs).

Taking over a team that has not won a division title since 1971 and has appeared in only one playoff game in the last 17 years might be the ultimate test of their coaching abilities.

## OFFENSE

**QUARTERBACKS**—During the 1980s, Bill Kenney had been the one constant in the Kansas City quarterbacking picture. A former free agent, Kenney survived numerous challenges and went on to become one of the top 20 passers in NFL history.

But the 34-year-old Kenney was released in the spring when the Chiefs signed 38-year-old free agent Ron Jaworski, who led the 1980 Philadelphia Eagles to the Super Bowl but has thrown only 14 passes the last two years as Dan Marino's backup in Miami.

Jaworski will compete with another old hand, 35-year-old Steve DeBerg, for the starting spot. In the wings is Mike Elkins, the club's second-round draft pick out of

Wake Forest. He's ticketed for the starting job in 1990.

**RUNNING BACKS**—Paul Palmer has been an enigma since his arrival in 1987. He was drafted for his running skills (he led the NCAA in rushing his senior season at Temple), but he has made his NFL mark in other areas.

He has returned two kickoffs 90-plus yards for touchdowns. He has caught scoring passes of 71 and 48 yards. And he was the only NFL running back to produce three 100-yard receiving days last year. But he has managed only 607 rushing yards and scored two rushing touchdowns in his two NFL seasons.

Schottenheimer hired Palmer's former college coach (Arians) to handle the running backs, hoping he can lift the talented youngster out of his funk. The Chiefs also drafted the halfback who replaced Palmer in the Temple offense, Todd McNair, in the fourth round.

Incumbent starting halfback Herman Heard has had only one 100-yard game in his five-year career with the Chiefs. Fullback Christian Okoye is a load at 253 pounds and is productive when he's healthy. But he missed seven games last season with a variety of injuries and always seems to be nicked.

**RECEIVERS**—The Chiefs lack speed on the flank. Carlos Carson has had three 1,000-yard seasons and has earned two trips to the Pro Bowl. But at age 30, he's starting to slow down. The other starting wideout, Stephone Paige, came into the league five years ago and is not getting any faster.

Third-round draft pick Naz Worthen and sixth-rounder Robb Thomas could fit quickly into the Chiefs' picture.

Emile Harry is a solid possession receiver, and tight ends Jonathan Hayes, Alfredo Roberts and Billy Griggs all are better blockers than pass catchers.

**LINEMEN**—So high is Schottenheimer on Kansas City's offensive line that the Chiefs didn't draft any blockers.

Tackles John Alt and Irv Eatman are big, rangy blockers who give the line solid bookends. Right guard Mark Adickes excels as a pass blocker, and left guard Rich Baldinger's forte is run blocking.

Snapping the ball will be nine-time Pro Bowl center Mike Webster, who retired from the Steelers last winter and signed on with the Chiefs as an assistant line coach. But after a month on the job, he decided to play one more year, filling a major hole for Kansas City. Backups David Lutz at tackle and Byron Ingram at guard both have been starters.

## DEFENSE

**LINEMEN**—The Chiefs can line up three No. 1 draft picks on its three-man front—ends Mike Bell (1979) and Neil Smith (1988) and two-time Pro Bowl nose tackle Bill Maas (1984).

Yet the Chiefs ranked 28th against the run last season and 26th in sacks. Poor linebacking and the lack of depth up front

## AT A GLANCE

**Strengths:** The Chiefs have the best secondary in the NFL, and it figures to get even better now that they have Derrick Thomas rushing the passer. Nick Lowery is one of the most dependable kickers in the NFL, and offensive tackles John Alt and Irv Eatman would both get Pro Bowl attention if they played for a winning team.

**Weaknesses:** The Chiefs are ancient at quarterback with Ron Jaworski (38) and Steve DeBerg (35) and getting old at receiver with Carlos Carson (30) and Stephone Paige (27). The tight ends don't contribute much in the passing game, and the Chiefs can't seem to get to the outside with their running game.

**Key to success:** If Derrick Thomas registers half the sacks in the NFL that he did at Alabama, the Chiefs' defense can dominate.

**Sure sign of trouble:** A slow start. With all four AFC West road games plus a home date with the defending AFC-champion Cincinnati Bengals in the first six weeks, the Chiefs could be out of the divisional chase by mid-October.

**That's a fact:** In the 17-year history of Arrowhead Stadium, the Chiefs have never had a home playoff game.

**The head coach says:** "A coach has one elementary task—take every guy that you coach and get him to be the very best player he is capable of being. You don't have to take a marginal player and get him to play like a Hall of Famer. But you'd better get a potential Hall of Famer to play like a Hall of Famer."





were the culprits in that shoddy showing.

So, Peterson went the free-agent route, signing end Walt Bowyer, who started for Denver in 1988, and nose tackle Greg Meisner, a longtime starter for the Rams and Maas' former college teammate at Pittsburgh.

With age (32) slowing down Bell, the Chiefs might flip Smith from the left side to Bell's right end spot, where his pass-rush skills can be better utilized. Leonard Griffin is solid at left end.

**LINEBACKERS**—By the end of the 1988 season, the Chiefs were starting three free agents and an 11th-round draft pick. Thanks to the wheeling and dealing of Peterson, the Chiefs now can start the fourth pick of the 1989 draft (Thomas), the fifth pick of the 1987 draft (Mike Junkin) and a 1988 Pro Bowl selection (Dino Hackett).

Thomas, the 1988 Butkus Award winner, had more sacks in 11 games at Alabama last season (27) than the entire Kansas City defense had in 16 games (23). He gives the Chiefs the big-play outside linebacker they have been seeking since Hall of Famer Bobby Bell retired in 1974.

Junkin was acquired from the Browns on draft day for a middle-round pick and should line up inside next to Hackett, who has topped 100 tackles in each of his three seasons with the Chiefs.

Seventh-round pick Ron Sancho could push free-agent signee Orlando Lowry for the left outside spot. Sancho was a four-year starter at Louisiana State. Another free agent, Walker Lee Ashley from Minnesota, figures into the mix, with Hackett and Junkin in the middle.

**DEFENSIVE BACKS**—The Chiefs led the NFL in pass defense last season and line up three players with Pro Bowl experience in free safety Deron Cherry, strong safety Lloyd Burruss and cornerback Albert Lewis.

Cherry has been the dominant back of his era, intercepting more passes (40) than any NFL player since 1983 and going to six consecutive Pro Bowls.

Burruss is susceptible to injury and has not played a complete season since 1984. The Chiefs drafted his heir apparent, big-hitter Kevin Porter, in 1988. The other corner, Kevin Ross, looks like Marvin Hagler and hits like him. In search of a third corner, the Chiefs drafted Stan Petry (Texas Christian) in the fourth round.

## SPECIAL TEAMS

Nick Lowery is the second-most accurate field-goal kicker (77.9 percent) in NFL history and hasn't missed an extra point since 1983. He has kicked a record-tying 17 50-yard field goals, including all five he has attempted the last two years.

The Chiefs signed veteran Max Runager to push incumbent Kelly Goodburn for the punting chores. Runager is a seasoned directional kicker who punted for Schottenheimer in Cleveland.

The Chiefs had the worst return game in the league last season, so they signed free agent Lew Barnes, who has returned kicks for both Chicago and Atlanta. Palmer led the AFC in kickoff returns two years ago. ■

## CHIEFS DATA

### 1989 ROSTER

QUARTERBACKS	Ht./Wt.	NFL Exp.	College	1988 Games GP/GS
DeBerg, Steve	6-3/210	13	San Jose State	13/11
Elkins, Mike	6-3/221	D2	Wake Forest	—
Jaworski, Ron	6-1/205	15	Youngstown State	*16/0
Kenney, Bill	6-4/217	11	Northern Colorado	16/5
McManus, Danny	6-0/200	2	Florida State	0/0
Slayden, Steve	6-1/185	2	Duke	*0/0
RUNNING BACKS	Ht./Wt.	NFL Exp.	College	1988 Games GP/GS
Agee, Tommie (FB)	6-0/218	2	Auburn	*16/0
Gamble, Kenny	5-10/197	2	Colgate	16/0
Heard, Herman	5-10/190	6	Southern Colorado	12-5
Jones, Bill	5-11/222	D12	SW Texas State	—
McNair, Todd	6-1/185	D8b	Temple	—
Okoye, Christian	6-1/253	3	Azusa Pacific (Calif.)	9/9
Palmer, Paul	5-9/181	3	Temple	15/11
Saxon, James	5-11/215	2	San Jose State	16/4
Tobey, Bryan (FB)	6-1/250	D8a	Grambling State	—
RECEIVERS	Ht./Wt.	NFL Exp.	College	1988 Games GP/GS
Abdur-Ra'ooof, Azizuddin	6-0/197	1	Maryland	IR
Barnes, Lew	5-8/163	4	Oregon	*13/0
Carson, Carlos	5-11/190	10	Louisiana State	14/14
Dressel, Chris (TE)	6-4/245	5	Stanford	*0/0
Griggs, Billy (TE)	6-3/230	5	Virginia	*15/8
Harry, Emile	5-11/176	3	Stanford	16/2
Hayes, Jonathan (TE)	6-5/239	5	Iowa	16/9
Paige, Stephane	6-2/185	7	Fresno State	16/16
Roberts, Alfredo (TE)	6-3/250	2	Miami (Fla.)	16/7
Thomas, Robb	5-11/171	D6	Oregon State	—
Worthen, Nasrallah	5-8/177	D3	North Carolina State	—
OFFENSIVE LINEMEN	Ht./Wt.	NFL Exp.	College	1988 Games GP/GS
Adickes, Mark (G)	6-4/273	4	Baylor	10/10
Alt, John (T)	6-7/290	6	Iowa	14/13
Baldinger, Rick	6-4/285	7	Wake Forest	14/14
Chilton, Gene (C)	6-3/271	3	Texas	*0/0
Eatman, Irv (T)	6-7/294	4	UCLA	16/14
Feehery, Gerry (C)	6-2/270	7	Syracuse	6/6
Ingram, Byron (G)	6-2/295	2	Eastern Kentucky	12/5
Lucas, Jeff (T)	6-7/282	2	West Virginia	*0/0
Lutz, David (T)	6-6/290	7	Georgia Tech	15/7
Scully, Mike	6-5/280	1	Illinois	*1/0
Smith, Dave (T)	6-6/290	2	Southern Illinois	*14/0
Van Druten, Richard (T)	6-5/281	1	Abilene Christian	IR
Webster, Mike (C)	6-2/260	16	Wisconsin	*16/16
Wolkow, Troy (G)	6-4/280	1	Minnesota	*IR
DEFENSIVE LINEMEN	Ht./Wt.	NFL Exp.	College	1988 Games GP/GS
Bell, Mike (E)	6-4/260	9	Colorado State	12/12
Bowyer, Walt (E)	6-4/260	5	Arizona State	*16/11
Griffin, Leonard (E)	6-4/270	4	Grambling State	15/9
Maas, Bill (NT)	6-5/268	6	Pittsburgh	8/8
Meisner, Greg (NT)	6-3/269	7	Pittsburgh	*12/0
Saleaumua, Dan (NT)	6-0/285	3	Arizona State	*16/0
Sally, Jerome (NT)	6-3/270	8	Missouri	3/2
Smith, Neil (E)	6-4/270	2	Nebraska	13/7
Stensrud, Mike (NT)	6-5/280	11	Iowa State	13/5
Watts, Randy (E)	6-6/279	2	Catawba (N.C.)	*0/0
LINEBACKERS	Ht./Wt.	NFL Exp.	College	1988 Games GP/GS
Ashley, Walker Lee	6-0/230	6	Penn State	*16/0
Cooper, George	6-2/225	2	Michigan State	*0/0
Cooper, Louis	6-2/245	5	Western Carolina	11/4
Del Rio, Jack	6-4/238	5	Southern California	15/10
Gaines, Greg	6-3/229	8	Tennessee	*6/0
Griggs, Anthony	6-3/230	8	Ohio State	*5/0
Hackett, Dino	6-3/228	4	Appalachian State	13/13
Junkin, Mike	6-3/238	3	Duke	*11/7
Lowry, Orlando	6-4/236	4	Ohio State	*16/2
Martin, Chris	6-2/231	7	Auburn	*15/0
McCabe, Jerry	6-1/225	3	Holy Cross	3/1
McGovern, Rob	6-2/222	D10	Holy Cross	—
Pearson, Aaron	6-0/240	4	Mississippi State	16/10
Sancho, Ron	6-2/230	D7	Louisiana State	—
Snipes, Angelo	6-0/227	4	West Georgia	15/8
Thomas, Derrick	6-3/234	D1	Alabama	—
DEFENSIVE BACKS	Ht./Wt.	NFL Exp.	College	1988 Games GP/GS
Burruss, Lloyd (S)	6-0/205	9	Maryland	10/9
Cherry, Deron (S)	5-11/203	9	Rutgers	16/16
Copeland, Danny (S)	6-2/210	1	Eastern Kentucky	*IR
Hill, Greg (CB)	6-1/202	7	Oklahoma State	15/0
Lewis, Albert (CB)	6-2/198	7	Grambling State	14/12
Loveall, Calvin	5-9/180	2	Idaho	*11/0
Pearson, J.C. (CB)	5-11/190	4	Washington	16/6
Petry, Stanley (CB)	5-11/174	D4	Texas Christian	—
Phillips, Jack (S)	6-0/201	D9	Alcorn State	—
Porter, Kevin	5-10/215	2	Auburn	15/7
Ross, Kevin (CB)	5-9/182	6	Temple	15/14
Turner, Marcus (CB)	6-0/191	D11	UCLA	—
SPECIALISTS	Ht./Wt.	NFL Exp.	College	1988 Games GP/GS
Goodburn, Kelly (P)	6-2/198	3	Emporia (Kan.) State	16/0
Holley, Bret (P)	6-1/182	R	Arizona	—
Lowery, Nick (K)	6-4/189	10	Dartmouth	16/0
Runager, Max (P)	6-1/189	11	South Carolina	*14/0
Tabor, Scott (P)	6-3/195	1	California	0/0
OTHER FREE AGENTS IN CAMP	Ht./Wt.	NFL Exp.	College	1988 Games GP/GS
Gerald Abraham, RB	5-11/203	9	Emporia (Kan.) State	16/0
Scott Annexstad, G	6-1/182	R	Arizona	—
Darren Chandler, WR	6-1/189	10	Dartmouth	16/0
Michael Harris, OL	6-1/189	11	South Carolina	*14/0
Tom Kelleher, FB	6-1/189	11	South Carolina	*14/0
Willie Marshall, WR	6-1/189	11	South Carolina	*14/0
Robert Oliver, WR	6-1/189	11	South Carolina	*14/0
Rod Smith, WR	6-1/189	11	South Carolina	*14/0
Bob Standiford, DT	6-1/189	11	South Carolina	*14/0

\*Not with Kansas City in 1988.

†Includes totals with both Kansas City and another NFL team in 1988.

IR—Injured reserve.

Key to abbreviations on page 160.

### COACHES

**Head coach**—Marty Schottenheimer.  
**Assistant coaches**—  
 Bruce Arians (running backs).  
 Russ Ball (assistant strength and conditioning).  
 Bill Cowher (defensive coordinator/linebackers).  
 Tony Dungy (defensive backs).  
 Howard Mudd (offensive line).  
 Joe Pendry (offensive coordinator/quarterbacks).  
 Tom Pratt (defensive line).  
 Dave Redding (strength and conditioning).  
 Al Saunders (receivers).  
 Kurt Schottenheimer (special teams).  
 Darwin Wallis (quality control).

### RECORDS/RANKINGS

**1988 regular-season record:** 4-11-1 (5th in AFC West); 2-6 in division; 4-9-1 in conference; 4-4 at home; 0-7-1 on road.

**1988 playoff record:** None.

**1988 team rankings:** total offense, 11th in AFC/22nd in NFL; total defense, 5th/10th; rushing offense, 12th/22nd; rushing defense, 14th/28th; passing offense, 6th/16th; passing defense, 1st/1st; scoring offense, 12th/23rd; scoring defense, 5th/15th; takeaways, T10th/T21st; giveaways, T5th/T10th; turnover differential, T8th/T17th; sacks, 13th/26th; sacks allowed, 13th/T19th.

**Schottenheimer's regular-season record:** First year as head coach of Chiefs; 44-27 in 5 NFL seasons overall.

**Schottenheimer's postseason record:** 2-4 in playoffs with Browns.

**Team record last five years:** 32-46-1 (.411, ranks T20th in league in that span).

### 1989 SCHEDULE

Sept. 10—at Denver  
 Sept. 17—Los Angeles Raiders  
 Sept. 24—at San Diego  
 Oct. 1—Cincinnati  
 Oct. 8—at Seattle  
 Oct. 15—at Los Angeles Raiders  
 Oct. 22—Dallas  
 Oct. 29—at Pittsburgh  
 Nov. 5—Seattle  
 Nov. 12—Denver  
 Nov. 19—at Cleveland  
 Nov. 26—Houston  
 Dec. 3—Miami  
 Dec. 10—at Green Bay  
 Dec. 17—San Diego  
 Dec. 24—at Miami

### 1988 RESULTS

Sept. 4—Cleveland 3-6  
 Sept. 11—at Seattle 10-31  
 Sept. 18—Denver 20-13  
 Sept. 25—San Diego 23-24  
 Oct. 2—at N.Y. Jets (OT) 17-17  
 Oct. 9—at Houston 6-7  
 Oct. 16—L.A. Raiders 17-27  
 Oct. 23—Detroit 6-7  
 Oct. 30—at L.A. Raiders 10-17  
 Nov. 6—at Denver 11-17  
 Nov. 13—Cincinnati 31-28  
 Nov. 20—Seattle 27-24  
 Nov. 27—at Pittsburgh 10-16  
 Dec. 4—N.Y. Jets 38-34  
 Dec. 11—at N.Y. Giants 12-28  
 Dec. 18—at San Diego 13-24

### 1988 LEADERS

**Scoring (kicking):** Nick Lowery, 104 pts. (23/23 PATs, 27/32 FGs).

**Scoring (touchdowns):** Stephane Paige, 42 pts. (7 receiving).

**Passing:** Steve DeBerg, 2,935 yds. (414 att., 224 comp., 54.1%, 16 TDs, 16 int.).

**Rushing:** Christian Okoye, 473 yds. (4.5 avg., 3 TDs).

**Receptions:** Stephane Paige, 61 (902 yds., 14.8 avg., 7 TDs).

**Interceptions:** Deron Cherry, 7 (51 yds., 0 TDs).

**Tackles:** Deron Cherry, 151 (90 solo, 61 assisted).

**Sacks:** Bill Maas, 4 (34 yds.).

**Punting:** Kelly Goodburn, 40.3 avg. (76 punts, 3,059 yds., 0 blocked).

**Punt returns:** Kitrick Taylor, 6.4 avg. (29 att., 187 yds., 0 TDs).

**Kickoff returns:** Paul Palmer, 15.8 avg. (23 att., 364 yds., 0 TDs).



# 'Vertical' Raiders regroup after turbulent 1988

By JAY LAWRENCE  
Orange County Register

**R**emember the old song that proclaims, "It never rains in Southern California"? Los Angeles Raiders Coach Mike Shanahan knows better. He has spent much of the past 12 months weathering a storm.

But then nobody ever said that working for Al Davis would be easy.

After a turbulent 1988 campaign in which they finished 7-9 and missed the playoffs for the third consecutive year, the Raiders' off-season was filled with firings and other organizational unrest.

It's clear the Raiders have enough talent to win the AFC West title in 1989, but there are questions that will need to be answered about off-field stability.

A lot could depend on the Shanahan-Davis relationship, which appeared to be strained midway through the '88 campaign. Davis, the Raiders' demanding managing general partner, reportedly was unhappy about his first-year coach's passing scheme, in which quarterbacks were instructed to look short first. Davis was the architect of the Raiders' famed vertical game, a high-powered, deep-passing offense that helped them win 10 division titles (one was a tie) and three Super Bowls after they joined the National Football League in 1970.

When the 1988 season came to its merciful conclusion, Shanahan fired two holdovers from the staff of former coach Tom Flores—defensive coordinator Charlie Sumner and defensive backfield co-coach Willie Brown, a longtime Davis favorite.

Davis answered by firing wide receivers coach Nick Nicolau, one of two assistants Shanahan had brought with him from Denver.

When the smoke cleared, Shanahan settled in and began preparations for what he hopes will be a peaceful 1989.



*Vann McElroy is the glue in the Raiders' secondary.*

## COACHING

Five assistants from 1988—Sumner, Brown, Nicolau, defensive line coach Earl Leggett and defensive backfield co-coach Jimmy Warren—are gone. Former Cleveland defensive coordinator Dave Adolph (the new defensive "organizer") and Raiders Hall of Famer Fred Biletnikoff (receivers coach) are among the new faces.

Adolph is expected to employ variations of the Chicago Bears' "46" defense, although the 3-4 alignment probably will remain the Raiders' base.

Davis wants Shanahan to return to the vertical game, and the coach likely will oblige.

## OFFENSE

**QUARTERBACKS**—The 1989 season will determine whether the Raiders made a good move last year when they acquired Jay Schroeder from Washington for offensive tackle Jim Lachey. It would be unfair to judge Schroeder by his '88 season.

Despite his unfamiliarity with the system, Schroeder was inserted into the lineup after being with the team for only three weeks. He lasted five games before being benched in favor of Steve Beuerlein.

Schroeder returned to start the final three games, completing 36 of 73 passes for 581 yards and five touchdowns in the last two. His arm strength and ability to stand in the pocket with the rush closing in make Schroeder ideal for the vertical game.

Beuerlein started eight games last season and now has the experience required to step in if needed.

**RUNNING BACKS**—Since Davis wants a "power running game" to complement the vertical passing attack, this position becomes especially important.

But there are questions.

Marcus Allen is one of the most productive running backs in the NFL when

healthy. But he broke a bone in his wrist early last season and played 12 games with a cast on his left arm. He underwent surgery on the wrist in the off-season.

The 29-year-old Allen averaged 3.7 yards per carry last season, marking the third consecutive year his average has been below four.

Bo Jackson, who missed the first six games because of his full-time job as an outfielder for the Kansas City Royals, rushed for 580 yards (a 4.3 average), but did not have a 100-yard game.

Fullback Steve Smith and running back Vance Mueller provide capable backups. Sixth-round pick Doug Lloyd could challenge.

**RECEIVERS**—Willie Gault was one of the Raiders' major disappointments in 1988. Gault, who was acquired from the Chicago Bears for a No. 1 draft pick, caught 12 passes in his first five games and four the rest of the season. After six starts, he was relegated to a backup role.

The vertical game would appear to suit his world-class speed. And it was the acquisition of Gault that prompted Davis to push for a return to the deep attack.

Gault will be the likely starter with Tim Brown, who led the team in receiving (43 catches for 725 yards) and the league in kickoff returns (a 26.8-yard average) in his Pro Bowl rookie year. If Gault falters, look for former Canadian Football League star Mervyn Fernandez, who came on strong last year and caught 31 passes. He was the third receiver in Shanahan's multifaceted offense.

James Lofton, who started 16 games, and tight end Todd Christensen, who missed most of 1988 with leg injuries, were left unprotected in the roster freeze. Both have uncertain roles in '89.

Christensen, the Raiders' top possession receiver since 1983, probably will give way to Trey Junkin, a fierce blocker.

**LINEMEN**—Injuries forced the Raiders to use numerous line combinations in '88. Continuity and depth are imperative if this team is to succeed in the vertical game, where linemen are asked to hold their blocks an extra second or two.

Despite playing on a sore ankle most of last season, Bill Lewis maintained the team's high standards at center. Lewis replaced Don Mosebar, who was moved to right tackle in training camp and to left tackle after Lachey was traded.

Mosebar figures to man that position again in 1989. Rory Graves will be at right tackle alongside improving guard Bruce Wilkerson. Former Buffalo starter Dale Hellestrae will compete with John Gesek for the starting left guard position. Steve Wisniewski, the former Penn State guard who was acquired from Dallas after being selected on the second round of the draft, will get a close look.

## DEFENSE

**LINEMEN**—Greg Townsend replaced injured end Howie Long last season and led the AFC with 11½ sacks. In 1989, Long

## AT A GLANCE

**Strengths:** The Raiders' defensive line will create problems for opposing quarterbacks. The addition of Bob Golic and the free-lancing capabilities of Greg Townsend make them a force

against the run or pass. When healthy, the backfield of Marcus Allen and Bo Jackson might be the best in the NFL.

**Weaknesses:** There is little depth on the offensive line, and right cornerback Mike Haynes' age (36) is a concern.

**Key to success:** Otis Wilson returning to his Pro Bowl form of 1985. The outside linebackers must stop the run.

**Sure sign of trouble:** If Allen still has problems with his wrist, or if the offensive line again is plagued by injuries.

**That's a fact:** The self-proclaimed "most successful organization in pro sports" has lost 23 of its last 35 games.

**The head coach says:** "We feel we've helped ourselves in several areas and now we've got to go out and show that we're better."





will return at full strength and Townsend will be tried as a combination outside line-backer/down lineman.

Long, who missed nine games because of a blood clot in his leg, will line up next to former Cleveland nose tackle Bob Golic, a free-agent signee. The Raiders are hoping that Golic is the solution to their problems against the run.

Scott Davis, a rookie last season, improved with each game and could challenge incumbent Mike Wise at the other end position.

Long, a five-time Pro Bowler, remains the most important presence on the line. The opposition will double- and triple-team him, freeing up one of the other linemen.

The Raiders were not happy with tackle Bill Pickel's play against the run last season; his status is uncertain. Tackle Malcolm Taylor is an experienced backup.

**LINEBACKERS**—The Raiders allowed 138 rushing yards per game last season and took steps to correct the problem by signing five free agents, including three former No. 1 picks—Chicago's Otis Wilson, Cincinnati's Emanuel King and Miami's Jackie Shipp.

Wilson underwent reconstructive surgery on his knee last year and the Bears felt he was a medical risk. King was erratic in Cincinnati and Shipp never lived up to expectations in Miami.

If Wilson, a former Pro Bowler, can duplicate his previous success, the Raiders will have solved a major problem. He would replace Rod Martin at right outside linebacker and King could start on the left side, leaving talented Matt Millen and Jerry Robinson inside.

**DEFENSIVE BACKS**—Free safety Vann McElroy is the glue in the secondary. He is a fierce tackler who has led the team in interceptions the last three seasons. Eddie Anderson, his backup, might be the most devastating tackler on the team.

Strong safety also is a strength, with Stacey Toran and Russell Carter, who was released and re-signed last season. Carter played well after Toran was injured in the fourth game.

The questions are at cornerback. Terry McDaniel, one of the team's three first-round draft picks last year, broke his fibula in the second game and did not return.

At the right corner, 13-year veteran Mike Haynes is 36 and a replacement must be found. Dennis Price, a fifth-round pick last year, must show improvement.

## SPECIAL TEAMS

Brown was a threat to score nearly every time he returned a kickoff or punt. Besides leading the NFL in kickoff-return average, he ranked among the top 10 AFC punt returners with a 9.1 average.

Punter Jeff Gossett provided consistency with a 41.8-yard average in his first season with the team.

Nine-year Raider placekicker Chris Bahr, who was left unprotected, signed with San Diego and will be replaced by former Browns kicker Jeff Jaeger, a free-agent signee. ■

## RAIDERS DATA

### 1989 ROSTER

	HI./WI.	NFL Exp.	College	1988 Games GP/GS
<b>QUARTERBACKS</b>				
Beuerlein, Steve	6-2/205	2	Notre Dame	10/8
Evans, Vince	6-2/210	10	Southern California	0/0
Francis, Jeff	6-4/215	D6a	Tennessee	—
Schroeder, Jay	6-4/215	6	UCLA	9/8
<b>RUNNING BACKS</b>				
Allen, Marcus	6-2/205	8	Southern California	15/15
Gainer, Derrick	5-10/215	D8	Florida A&M	—
Jackson, Bo	6-1/225	3	Auburn	10/9
Land, Dan	6-0/195	2	Albany (Ga.) State	0/0
Lloyd, Doug	6-0/215	D6b	North Dakota State	—
Mosley, Anthony	5-9/205	2	Fresno State	0/0
Mueller, Vance	6-0/215	4	Occidental (Calif.)	14/1
Porter, Kerry	6-1/210	2	Washington State	0/0
Smith, Steve	6-1/235	3	Penn State	16/6
Strachan, Steve	6-1/225	5	Boston College	16/0
<b>RECEIVERS</b>				
Alexander, Mike	6-3/195	1	Penn State	IR
Brown, Tim	6-0/195	2	Notre Dame	16/9
Christensen, Todd (TE)	6-3/230	11	Brigham Young	7/5
Dyal, Mike (TE)	6-2/240	1	Texas A&I	IR
Fernandez, Mervyn	6-3/200	3	San Jose State	16/1
Gault, Willie	6-1/180	7	Tennessee	15/6
Graddy, Sam	5-10/165	3	Tennessee	0/0
Henry, Charles (TE)	6-4/230	1	Miami (Fla.)	IR
Horton, Ethan (TE)	6-4/235	3	North Carolina	0/0
Junkin, Trey (TE)	6-2/230	7	Louisiana Tech	16/1
Lofton, James	6-3/190	12	Stanford	16/16
<b>OFFENSIVE LINEMEN</b>				
Gesek, John	6-5/275	3	Cal State Sacramento	12/6
Graves, Rory (T)	6-6/290	2	Ohio State	16/15
Harrell, Newt (T)	6-5/295	1	West Texas State	IR
Hellestrae, Dale (G)	6-5/285	4	Southern Methodist	0/16/2
Jordan, David (T)	6-5/280	4	Auburn	0/0
Lee, Larry (G)	6-2/270	9	UCLA	0/4/0
Lewis, Bill (C)	6-7/275	4	Nebraska	14/14
Lilja, George (C)	6-4/285	7	Michigan	0/0
Mosebar, Don	6-6/275	7	Southern California	13/13
Pettitt, Duane (G)	6-4/280	2	San Diego State	0/0
Riehm, Chris (G)	6-6/280	3	Ohio State	8/4
Wilkinson, Bruce	6-5/285	3	Tennessee	16/16
Wisniewski, Steve (G)	6-4/280	D2	Penn State	—
Wright, Steve (T)	6-6/275	7	Northern Iowa	15/3
<b>DEFENSIVE LINEMEN</b>				
Baldwin, Keith (E)	6-4/265	6	Texas A&M	0/0
Caldwell, David (T)	6-2/265	2	Texas Christian	0/0
Davis, Scott (E)	6-7/270	2	Illinois	15/2
Glover, Clyde (E)	6-6/285	2	Fresno State	0/0
Golic, Bob (NT)	6-2/265	10	Notre Dame	0/16/16
Jackson, Charles (T)	6-4/285	D10	Jackson State	—
Koch, Pete (E)	6-6/260	5	Maryland	0/IR
Long, Howie (E)	6-5/265	9	Villanova	7/6
Mraz, Mark (E)	6-4/260	2	Utah State	0/0
Pickel, Bill (T)	6-5/265	7	Rutgers	16/16
Rother, Tim (T)	6-7/275	1	Nebraska	IR
Taylor, Malcolm (T)	6-6/280	6	Tennessee State	15/3
Wise, Mike (E)	6-7/270	3	Cal-Davis	16/14
<b>LINEBACKERS</b>				
Benson, Tom	6-2/240	6	Oklahoma	0/12/0
Brown, Ron	6-4/235	3	Southern California	16/0
Costello, Joe	6-3/240	4	Central Connecticut St.	0/6/0
Kimmel, Jamie	6-3/235	3	Syracuse	IR
King, Emanuel	6-4/250	5	Alabama	0/7/0
King, Linden	6-4/245	12	Colorado State	14/13
Millen, Matt	6-2/250	10	Penn State	16/15
Robinson, Jerry	6-2/230	11	UCLA	15/15
Shipp, Jackie	6-2/240	6	Oklahoma	0/11/4
Snelson, Eric	6-3/240	1	Stanford	IR
Townsend, Greg	6-3/250	7	Texas Christian	16/11
Wilson, Otis	6-2/225	9	Louisville	0/IR
<b>DEFENSIVE BACKS</b>				
Adams, Stefon (S)	5-10/185	4	East Carolina	14/0
Anderson, Eddie (S)	6-1/195	4	Fort Valley (Ga.) State	16/5
Carter, Russell (S)	6-2/200	6	Southern Methodist	15/12
Crudup, Derrick (S)	6-2/210	1	Oklahoma	IR
Gooden, Gary	6-0/170	D9	Indiana	—
Haynes, Mike (CB)	6-2/190	14	Arizona State	16/16
Lee, Zeph (S)	6-3/205	3	Southern California	8/1
McDaniel, Terry (CB)	5-10/175	1	Tennessee	2/2
McElroy, Vann (S)	6-2/195	8	Baylor	12/11
Price, Dennis (CB)	6-1/175	2	UCLA	12/4
Richardson, Mike (CB)	6-0/185	7	Arizona State	0/16/15
Toran, Stacey (S)	6-3/200	6	Notre Dame	12/4
Washington, Lionel (CB)	6-0/185	7	Tulane	12/0
<b>SPECIALISTS</b>				
English, Keith (P)	6-2/215	R	Colorado	—
Gillette, Mike (K)	6-0/192	R	Michigan	—
Gossett, Jeff (P)	6-2/195	8	Eastern Illinois	16/0
Jaeger, Jeff (K)	5-11/185	2	Washington	0/IR
<b>OTHER FREE AGENTS IN CAMP</b>				
Rex Brown, DB; Johnny Carter, NT; Joe Cormier, LB; Todd Gatlin, LB; Greg Knapp, QB.				

\*Not with L.A. Raiders in 1988.

IR—Injured reserve.

Key to abbreviations on page 160.

### COACHES

**Head coach**—Mike Shanahan.  
**Assistant coaches**—  
Dave Adolph (defense).  
Fred Biletnikoff (receivers).  
John Dunn (strength and conditioning).  
Alex Gibbs (assistant head coach).  
Sam Gruneisen (linebackers).  
Terry Robiskie (tight ends).  
Pete Rodriguez (special teams).  
Joe Scannella (offensive backfield).  
Art Shell (offensive line).  
Jack Stanton (defensive backfield).  
Bill Urbanik (defensive line).  
Tom Walsh (quarterbacks).

### RECORDS/RANKINGS

**1988 regular-season record:** 7-9 (3rd in AFC West); 6-2 in division; 6-6 in conference; 3-5 at home; 4-4 on road.

**1988 playoff record:** None.

**1988 team rankings:** total offense, 9th in AFC/19th in NFL; total defense, 8th/19th; rushing offense, 10th/18th; rushing defense, 10th/23rd; passing offense, 7th/17th; passing defense, 7th/11th; scoring offense, 9th/16th; scoring defense, 12th/23rd; takeaways, 7th/15th; giveaways, 75th/110th; turnover differential, 6th/112th; sacks, 5th/13th; sacks allowed, 14th/21st.

**Shanahan's regular-season record:** 7-9 in 1 season with Raiders.

**Shanahan's postseason record:** None.

**Team record last five years:** 43-36 (.544, ranks 11th in league in that span).

### 1989 SCHEDULE

Sept. 10—San Diego  
Sept. 17—at Kansas City  
Sept. 24—at Denver  
Oct. 1—Seattle  
Oct. 9—at New York Jets (Mon.)  
Oct. 15—Kansas City  
Oct. 22—at Philadelphia  
Oct. 29—Washington  
Nov. 5—Cincinnati  
Nov. 12—at San Diego  
Nov. 19—at Houston  
Nov. 26—New England  
Dec. 3—Denver  
Dec. 10—Phoenix  
Dec. 17—at Seattle  
Dec. 24—at New York Giants

### 1988 RESULTS

Sept. 4—San Diego 24-13  
Sept. 11—at Houston 35-38  
Sept. 18—L.A. Rams 17-22  
Sept. 26—at Denver 30-27  
Oct. 2—Cincinnati 21-45  
Oct. 9—Miami 14-24  
Oct. 16—at Kansas City 27-17  
Oct. 23—at New Orleans 6-20  
Oct. 30—Kansas City 17-10  
Nov. 6—at San Diego 13-3  
Nov. 13—at San Francisco 9-3  
Nov. 20—Atlanta 6-12  
Nov. 28—at Seattle 27-35  
Dec. 4—Denver 21-20  
Dec. 11—at Buffalo 21-37  
Dec. 18—Seattle 37-43

### 1988 LEADERS

**Scoring (kicking):** Chris Bahr, 91 pts. (37/39 PATs, 18/29 FGs).  
**Scoring (touchdowns):** Steve Smith, 54 pts. (3 rushing, 6 receiving).  
**Passing:** Jay Schroeder, 1,839 yds. (256 att., 113 comp., 44.1%, 13 TDs, 13 int.).  
**Rushing:** Marcus Allen, 831 yds. (3.7 avg., 7 TDs).  
**Receptions:** Tim Brown, 43 (725 yds., 16.9 avg., 5 TDs).  
**Interceptions:** Mike Haynes, 3 (30 yds., 0 TDs); Vann McElroy, 3 (17 yds., 0 TDs).  
**Tackles:** Matt Millen, 106.  
**Sacks:** Greg Townsend, 11½.  
**Punting:** Jeff Gossett, 41.8 avg. (91 punts, 3,804 yds., 0 blocked).  
**Punt returns:** Tim Brown, 9.1 avg. (49 att., 444 yds., 0 TDs).  
**Kickoff returns:** Tim Brown, 26.8 avg. (41 att., 1,098 yds., 1 TD).



# No offense, but Chargers could face long season

By T.J. SIMERS  
San Diego Union

**T**he San Diego Chargers, blessed for so many years by the presence of Hall of Fame-bound quarterback Dan Fouts, now are paying the piper.

The team's current quarterback derby looks like Stephen King's worst nightmare: Mark Malone vs. David Archer vs. Mark Vlasic. All have clearly demonstrated that they will not be leading any National Football League teams to the Promised Land.

It got so bad last season that veteran journeyman quarterback Babe Laufenberg started the Chargers' first six games after beating out Malone and Vlasic.

There is a glimmer of hope, however, in the young rocket-like arm of Billy Joe Tolliver, a second-round draft choice out of Texas Tech. Look for the Chargers to bring the youngster along quickly.

That decision will be up to Dan Henning, the former Atlanta coach who takes the San Diego reins from Al Saunders after a 6-10 season in which the Chargers ranked last in the AFC and 27th in the NFL in scoring.

## COACHING

Although Saunders was sent packing, "continuity" was the theme following the 1988 season. As a result, Henning, as part of the job description, will be working with many of the same coaches who called the signals under Saunders.

The Chargers are no longer the NFL's whipping boys on defense, thanks to defensive coordinator Ron Lynn's aggres-



*Once the Chargers stopped shifting Gary Anderson around, he became their biggest offensive weapon.*

sive, creative approach. The chemistry between Lynn, who was hired in 1986, and talented assistants Gunther Cunningham and Mike Haluchak is strong.

Henning, the Washington quarterbacks coach last season, will be utilizing the same basic offensive attack that was introduced last year by Jerry Rhyme, who has since moved on to Dallas.

The addition of popular Ted Tollner as assistant head coach and the outgoing Larry Beightol as the offensive coordinator should be a plus for the young and impressionable Chargers. But the loss of special teams coach Wayne Sevier, one of the best in the league, could prove costly.

## OFFENSE

**QUARTERBACKS**—Malone, who played seven seasons in Pittsburgh before coming to San Diego in a preseason 1988 trade, has finished the last two campaigns as the AFC's lowest-ranked passer. There's no question that the 30-year-old Malone has great athletic skills, but he seems to lack game instinct and the ability to motivate those around him.

Henning, like those before him who have admired Malone's measurables, will try to show everyone that he has what it takes to turn Malone into a solid NFL quarterback. If he fails, he probably will be forced to turn his attention to Tolliver.

The youngster already is being tabbed as the Chargers' next Fouts. Vlasic, who carried that label two years ago when he was drafted out of Iowa, still is recovering from a serious knee injury and has not

convinced the Chargers that he has the arm or the physique to be an every-game NFL quarterback.

**RUNNING BACKS**—Once the Chargers stopped shifting Gary Anderson here, there and everywhere and just handed him the ball, he became their biggest offensive weapon. He also became the first Charger to rush for more than 1,000 yards (he ran for 1,119) in the last four years. Surprisingly, he gained most of his yards inside and, despite missing two games, proved to critics that he could stand the punishment as an every-down back.

The rest of the Chargers' backfield picture is hazy.

Timmy Smith, who rushed for a Super Bowl-record 204 yards in Washington's 1988 victory over Denver, rushed for only 470 yards all of last season and was left unprotected by the Redskins. San Diego signed him and will let him battle it out with two-year disappointment Barry Redden, Tim Spencer and Marion Butts, the Chargers' seventh-round draft choice out of Florida State.

Lionel James, the forgotten man last season, should return to his status as San Diego's best third-down weapon. Opponents negated his effectiveness by forcing him to block on the blitz.

**RECEIVERS**—There could be plenty of fireworks if Anthony Miller, Quinn Early and Jamie Holland ever figure this game out. And if the Chargers ever find a quarterback who can get them the ball consistently.

All three youngsters had difficulty last season getting separation at the line of scrimmage and running the precise patterns required in the Charger offense. But all three have plenty of talent and explosive, game-breaking speed.

Darren Flutie, who shows no fear as a possession receiver, will struggle to make a team dedicated to speed.

Tight end Rod Bernstein, who finally lived up to expectations late last season, went down with a serious knee injury and remains a 1989 question mark. Arthur Cox, Andy Parker and Joe Caravello will fight it out for the starting nod if Bernstein can't answer the bell.

**LINEMEN**—In an effort to upgrade their line, the Chargers signed any unprotected free agent who could cast a shadow over the state of Idaho. Now they'll have to figure out who can play.

Veteran Dennis McKnight will man one of the guard posts. Second-round draft choice Courtney Hall (Rice) will be given every opportunity in a battle with 13-year veteran Don Macek and Dan Rosado for the center job. David Richards, a rookie who started all 16 games last season at tackle, may be moved to guard.

John Clay, a 1987 No. 1 draft pick by the Los Angeles Raiders who was acquired for Pro Bowl tackle Jim Lachey, is recovering from neck surgery. He is expected back, and the Chargers sorely need this youngster to take charge at left tackle.

## AT A GLANCE

**Strengths:** The defensive line is overloaded with sack-happy hunters who should make life miserable for the opposition's quarterback. Running back Gary Anderson gives the Chargers a chance to score on every play while also making speedy Anthony Miller more effective on the outside. Punter Ralf Mojsiejenko is adept at pinning opposing offenses against their own goal line.

**Weaknesses:** The quarterbacking situation, with Mark Malone the early favorite, is bleak at best. Should somebody emerge, his health will be threatened on every play because of a weak offensive line. The Chargers also have a serious problem at one cornerback spot.

**Key to success:** It's up to the defense to keep the Chargers close while Henning tries to assemble some semblance of offense.

**Sure sign of trouble:** Gary Anderson limping off the field. Billy Ray Smith on the sideline with the headsets on—while the defense is playing. Mark Malone at quarterback.

**That's a fact:** The Chargers had the worst rushing attack in the league in 1987, but last year only Super Bowl combatants San Francisco and Cincinnati had a better yards-per-rush average (4.8) than the Chargers (4.7).

**The head coach says:** "I don't think there are any quick fixes. But I think I'm starting off here a lot further along the right track than in Atlanta."





Guard Larry Williams, signed as a free agent off Cleveland's roster, and 307-pound tackle Joel Patten, a free agent from Indianapolis, will receive strong consideration.

## DEFENSE

**LINEMEN**—The return of Leslie O'Neal to top form last season was welcome. No longer as quick as he was in his 1986 rookie season before injuring his knee, O'Neal still has that extra something that separates him from the crowd.

Lee Williams, who finally drew Pro Bowl interest last year, has yet to miss a practice or a game in his five years with the Chargers. He is one of the game's monster pass rushers.

Burt Grossman, the Chargers' first-round draft pick out of Pittsburgh, has been compared to O'Neal and will force the team to go to a four-man line to get everyone on the field. Both Grossman and O'Neal have the ability to work as stand-up defensive ends, and with an underrated Joe Phillips working inside, this may be one of the best lines in the AFC.

The Chargers have plenty of depth in nose tackle Mike Charles, whose playing time is limited by a bad knee, and youngsters George Hinkle and Joe Campbell.

**LINEBACKERS**—Billy Ray Smith was injured much of last season. But when he's healthy, he's one of the best outside men in the game. He's also like a coach on the field, the leader Lynn needs to make his sometimes-complicated defense work.

Gary Plummer probably will return as the middle man, although Chuck Faucette could challenge for a starting job if he can come back successfully from a broken neck. Jim Collins, counted on heavily by the Chargers in their new three-man line-backing attack, will work more in coverage than Plummer and Faucette.

Five-year veteran Keith Browner figures to man the other outside post.

**DEFENSIVE BACKS**—Gill Byrd emerged as the team's best cornerback last season, but Elvis Patterson and Sam Seale had problems on the opposite side.

Vencie Glenn may not record the eye-popping hits over the middle, but he's on the verge of becoming one of the AFC's outstanding free safeties. The Chargers, however, have had problems filling the strong safety position. Pat Miller and Martin Bayless are the leading candidates to plug that hole in 1989. Elliot Smith, a fifth-round pick out of Alcorn State, has good size (6-foot-2) and speed and could break into the lineup.

## SPECIAL TEAMS

Ralf Mojsiejenko averaged 44.1 yards per kick last season. He placed 22 punts inside the opponent's 20-yard line and had 11 others brought out on touchbacks.

Placekicker Vince Abbott connected on eight of 12 field-goal attempts but finished the season on injured reserve (a knee problem). He has the edge over Steve DeLine to recapture his job.

Holland returned a kickoff 94 yards for a touchdown, and fellow receiver Miller returned another 93 yards. James should continue to handle punt returns. ■

# CHARGERS DATA

## 1989 ROSTER

QUARTERBACKS	Ht./Wt.	NFL Exp.	College	1988 Games GP/GS
Archer, David	6-2/208	6	Iowa State	*1/0
Jones, Terrence	6-1/208	D7b	Tulane	—
Malone, Mark	6-4/222	9	Arizona State	12/8
Tolliver, Billy Joe	6-1/218	D2b	Texas Tech	—
Vlasic, Mark	6-3/206	3	Iowa	2/2
RUNNING BACKS	Ht./Wt.	NFL Exp.	College	1988 Games GP/GS
Adams, Curtis	5-11/194	4	Central Michigan	7/1
Anderson, Gary	6-5/181	5	Arkansas	14/13
Butts, Marion	6-1/248	D7a	Florida State	—
Floyd, Victor	6-1/201	D11	Florida State	—
James, Lionel	5-6/170	6	Auburn	16/1
Lavette, Robert	5-11/190	4	Georgia Tech	0/0
McCallum, Napoleon	6-2/215	2	Navy	0/0
Redden, Barry	5-10/219	8	Richmond	8/2
Smith, Timmy	5-11/222	3	Texas Tech	*14/8
Spencer, Tim	6-1/227	5	Ohio State	16/1
Williams, Ronnie	6-3/229	1	Oklahoma State	IR
RECEIVERS	Ht./Wt.	NFL Exp.	College	1988 Games GP/GS
Bedford, Brian (TE)	6-3/210	1	California	IR
Bernstine, Rod (TE)	6-3/235	3	Texas A&M	14/13
Brinson, Dana	5-9/167	D8	Nebraska	—
Caravella, Joe (TE)	6-3/270	3	Tulane	*12/6
Cox, Arthur (TE)	6-2/260	7	Texas Southern	16/16
Davis, Pat (TE)	6-3/257	D9	Syracuse	—
Early, Quinn	6-0/190	2	Iowa	16/11
Flutie, Darren	5-10/185	2	Boston College	16/0
Holland, Jamie	6-1/186	3	Ohio State	16/6
Miller, Anthony	5-11/180	2	Tennessee	16/15
Parker, Andy (TE)	6-5/245	6	Utah	*16/11
Sampson, Clint	6-0/188	5	San Diego State	0/0
Williams, Dokie	5-11/180	6	UCLA	0/0
Yarber, Eric	5-8/152	3	Idaho	*IR
OFFENSIVE LINEMEN	Ht./Wt.	NFL Exp.	College	1988 Games GP/GS
Behning, Mark (T)	6-6/285	2	Nebraska	*0/0
Briz, Darrick	6-3/270	3	Oregon	14/0
Clay, John (T)	6-5/305	2	Missouri	2/1
FitzPatrick, James	6-7/286	4	Southern California	11/0
Hall, Courtney (C)	6-1/269	D2a	Rice	—
Howard, Joey (T)	6-5/285	1	Tennessee	IR
Kowalski, Gary	6-6/273	5	Boston College	2/2
Macek, Don (C)	6-2/270	14	Boston College	5/5
McKnight, Dennis	6-3/270	8	Drake	16/16
Miller, Brett (T)	6-7/300	7	Iowa	*15/4
Patten, Joel (T)	6-7/307	5	Duke	*15/13
Richards, David (T)	6-4/301	2	UCLA	16/16
Rosado, Dan	6-3/280	3	Northern Illinois	12/11
Searels, Stacy	6-5/281	1	Auburn	IR
Thompson, Broderick	6-4/290	4	Kansas	16/16
Williams, Larry (G)	6-5/290	4	Notre Dame	*14/14
DEFENSIVE LINEMEN	Ht./Wt.	NFL Exp.	College	1988 Games GP/GS
Charles, Mike (NT)	6-4/315	7	Syracuse	16/14
Grossman, Burt (E)	6-6/270	D1	Pittsburgh	—
Hinkle, George	6-5/269	2	Arizona	3/1
Keys, Tyrone (E)	6-7/275	7	Mississippi State	13/11
Miller, Les (E)	6-7/285	3	Fort Hays (Kan.) St.	13/0
O'Neal, Leslie (E)	6-4/255	3	Oklahoma State	9/1
Phillips, Joe (E)	6-5/275	4	Southern Methodist	16/16
Williams, Lee (E)	6-5/263	6	Bethune-Cookman	16/16
Wilson, Karl (E)	6-4/268	3	Louisiana State	13/2
LINEBACKERS	Ht./Wt.	NFL Exp.	College	1988 Games GP/GS
Andrews, Ricky	6-2/236	D10	Washington	—
Brandon, David	6-4/225	3	Memphis State	8/1
Browner, Keith	6-6/260	5	Southern California	16/15
Campbell, Joe	6-3/242	2	New Mexico State	16/0
Collins, Jim	6-2/233	9	Syracuse	*4/4
Faucette, Chuck	6-3/238	2	Maryland	8/8
Figaro, Cedric	6-2/250	2	Notre Dame	6/5
Jackson, Jeffery	6-1/230	5	Auburn	14/1
Plummer, Gary	6-2/240	4	Southern Methodist	16/12
Sebring, Bob	6-3/235	CFL	Illinois	0/0
Smith, Billy Ray	6-3/236	7	Arkansas	9/8
Woodard, Ken	6-1/220	8	Tuskegee Ala. Institute	8/0
DEFENSIVE BACKS	Ht./Wt.	NFL Exp.	College	1988 Games GP/GS
Bayless, Martin (S)	6-2/200	6	Bowling Green State	15/11
Bennett, Roy (CB)	6-2/200	2	Jackson State	16/2
Byrd, Gill (CB)	5-11/196	7	San Jose State	16/16
Coleman, Leonard (S)	6-2/202	5	Vanderbilt	16/0
Glenn, Vencie (S)	6-0/187	4	Indiana State	16/16
Lyles, Lester (S)	6-3/200	5	Virginia	*6/4
Miller, Pat (S)	6-1/210	2	Florida	8/3
Moore, Mark (S)	6-0/194	2	Oklahoma State	*0/0
Patterson, Elvis (CB)	5-11/198	6	Kansas	14/6
Seale, Sam (CB)	5-9/185	6	Western (Colo.) State	14/8
Smith, Elliot	6-2/192	D5	Alcorn State	—
Thomas, Johnny (CB)	5-9/185	2	Baylor	*4/0
SPECIALISTS	Ht./Wt.	NFL Exp.	College	1988 Games GP/GS
Abbott, Vince (K)	5-11/206	3	Cal State Fullerton	11/0
Bahr, Chris (K)	5-10/170	14	Penn State	*16/0
DeLine, Steve (K)	5-11/185	2	Colorado State	5/0
Mojsiejenko, Ralf (P)	6-3/212	5	Michigan State	16/0

### OTHER FREE AGENTS IN CAMP

Kevin Biggers, DB; Michael Brooks, DB; Craig Davis, TE; Eric Floyd, OL; Shawn Hicks, DB; Cedric Hosea, RB; Leonard Johnson, DE; Mike Matthews, LB; Mario Mitchell, DB; John Moore, LB; Michael Scott, G; Wayne Walker, WR; Ed Washington, DE.

\*Not with San Diego in 1988.

IR—Injured reserve.

Key to abbreviations on page 160.

## COACHES

Head coach—Dan Henning.

Assistant coaches—

Larry Beightol (offensive coordinator).

Gunner Cunningham.

Mike Haluchak.

Bobby Jackson.

Charlie Joiner.

Ron Lynn (defensive coordinator).

Joe Madden (special teams).

Jim Mora Jr. (defensive assistant).

Ted Tollner (assistant head coach).

Phil Tyne (strength).

Ed White.

## RECORDS/RANKINGS

1988 regular-season record: 6-10 (4th in AFC West); 3-5 in division; 4-8 in conference; 3-5 at home; 3-5 on road.

1988 playoff record: None.

1988 team rankings: total offense, 13th in AFC/26th in NFL; total defense, 9th/21st; rushing offense, 9th/12th; rushing defense, 9th/22nd; passing offense, 13th/26th; passing defense, 10th/16th; scoring offense, 14th/27th; scoring defense, 8th/18th; takeaways, 14th/26th; giveaways, 4th/18th; turnover differential, 113th/122nd; sacks, 8th/18th; sacks allowed, 7th/11th.

Henning's regular-season record: First year as head coach of Chargers; 22-41-1 in 4 NFL seasons overall.

Henning's post-season record: None.

Team record last five years: 33-46 (.418, ranks 19th in league in that span).

## 1988 SCHEDULE

Sept. 10	at Los Angeles Raiders
Sept. 17	at Houston
Sept. 24	at Kansas City
Oct. 1	at Phoenix
Oct. 8	at Denver
Oct. 15	Seattle
Oct. 22	New York Giants
Oct. 29	at Seattle
Nov. 5	Philadelphia
Nov. 12	Los Angeles Raiders
Nov. 19	at Pittsburgh
Nov. 26	at Indianapolis
Dec. 3	New York Jets
Dec. 10	at Washington
Dec. 17	at Kansas City
Dec. 24	Denver

## 1988 RESULTS

Sept. 4	at L.A. Raiders	13-24
Sept. 11	at Denver	3-34
Sept. 18	Seattle	17-6
Sept. 25	at Kansas City	24-23
Oct. 2	Denver	0-12
Oct. 9	New Orleans	17-23
Oct. 16	at Miami	28-31
Oct. 23	Indianapolis	0-16
Oct. 30	at Seattle	14-17
Nov. 6	L.A. Raiders	3-13
Nov. 13	at Atlanta	10-7
Nov. 20	at L.A. Rams	38-24
Nov. 27	San Francisco	10-48
Dec. 4	at Cincinnati	10-27
Dec. 11	Pittsburgh	20-14
Dec. 18	Kansas City	24-13

## 1988 LEADERS

Scoring (kicking): Vince Abbott, 39 pts. (15/15 PATs, 8/12 FGs).

Scoring (touchdowns): Quinn Early, 24 pts. (4 receiving); Anthony Miller, 24 pts. (3 receiving, 1 kickoff return); Mark Malone, 24 pts. (4 rushing).

Passing: Mark Malone, 1,580 yds. (272 att., 147 comp., 54%, 6 TDs, 13 int.).

Rushing: Gary Anderson, 1,119 yds. (5.0 avg., 3 TDs).

Receptions: Jamie Holland, 39 (536 yds., 13.7 avg., 1 TD).

Interceptions: Gill Byrd, 7 (82 yds., 0 TDs).

Tackles: Gary Plummer, 118 (97 solo, 21 assisted).

Sacks: Lee Williams, 11 (84 yds.).

Punting: Ralf Mojsiejenko, 44.1 avg. (85 punts, 3,745 yds., 1 blocked).

Punt returns: Lionel James, 9.9 avg. (28 att., 278 yds., 0 TDs).

Kickoff returns: Jamie Holland, 26.1 avg. (31 att., 810 yds., 1 TD).



# Quick-change Seahawks have some holes to fill

By JOHN CLAYTON  
Tacoma Morning News Tribune

**N**obody can accuse the Seattle Seahawks of resting on their laurels.

After winning the first AFC West championship in the club's 13-year history last season, the 9-7 Seahawks made wholesale changes—starting at the top. New Owner Ken Behring fired Mike McCormack, the team's president and general manager, and Coach Chuck Knox either lost or dumped about a quarter of his experienced offensive personnel. He turned to the National Football League draft to replenish his offense and to provide challenges to some of his veterans.

When the dust had cleared, Seattle's offensive picture had changed considerably. Not so, however, a defensive picture that is anything but pretty.

The 1988 Seahawks surrendered more rushing and passing yards than they gained and compiled fewer first downs than they allowed. Opponents outgained them by an average of 50 total yards per game. The Seahawks ranked 26th in both rushing yards and total yards allowed, 20th against the pass and 23rd in total defense. They recorded 30 sacks (only five teams had fewer), down from a team-record 61 in 1985.

Many observers were left to wonder how a team with those kinds of statistics could possibly win a division title. Others question whether Seattle's off-season priorities might have been misplaced.

## COACHING

Knox held the squad together through

## AT A GLANCE

**Strengths:** Fullback John L. Williams and halfback Curt Warner could each produce 1,000-yard seasons, but Williams has emerged as one of the league's busiest backs because of his pass-catching ability. The return of a healthy Steve Largent will give the Seahawks time to develop promising young receivers Brian Blades and Tommy Kane. Despite the loss of starting center Blair Bush to free agency, the offensive line is solid.

**Weaknesses:** The light and aging defensive line should expect another year of being pushed around by bigger offensive linemen. Free-agent losses left the Seahawks without any experienced tight ends and only one experienced center, Grant Feasel.

**Key to success:** The defense must hold opponents to under four yards per rush, while the secondary can't continue to allow long touchdown passes.

**Sure sign of trouble:** An injury to any of the three starting defensive linemen could prove disastrous.

**That's a fact:** Under Knox, the Seahawks have the sixth-best record in the NFL (57-38) since 1983, but they have not won a playoff game since 1984.

**The head coach says:** "We have to have players like Brian Bosworth and Patrick Hunter stay healthy. . . . We have to find some help on the offensive line and find some stability at free safety."



*Seattle's patience is running thin with a mostly ineffective Brian Bosworth.*

the ownership change and front-office uncertainty. And when former Los Angeles Raiders coach Tom Flores was hired to replace McCormack, he actually emerged with more power. But the transition proved costly.

Loyal veteran offensive players such as starting center Blair Bush and tight end Mike Tice departed via free agency because of the confusion. Steve Moore, the offensive coordinator, quit to enter private business and longtime defensive backs coach Ralph Hawkins became the New York Jets' defensive coordinator.

But Knox is a master scrambler and always seems to find a way to get his teams to contend. He'll have to do it this season while working with a new offensive coordinator, John Becker, and a new defensive backs coach, Rod Perry.

## OFFENSE

**QUARTERBACKS**—Dave Krieg went down with a shoulder separation in Seattle's third game last season and watched helplessly as the Seahawks struggled during his seven-game absence. When he returned, Seattle won four of its final six games and Krieg earned a spot on the Pro Bowl roster. He threw only eight interceptions while connecting for 18 touchdowns.

Krieg enters the season as the starter, although young backup Kelly Stouffer solidified his position with some solid performances in Krieg's absence. Stouffer is physically superior to Krieg and probably is the team's quarterback of the future.

**RUNNING BACKS**—Funny things are happening in the Seahawks' backfield.

John L. Williams, a fourth-year freight-train fullback, is taking away some of Curt Warner's spotlight. Warner led the Sea-

hawks with 1,025 yards and 10 rushing touchdowns, but Williams became the featured back during the final weeks of the season. That hurt Warner's confidence.

And during the off-season, Seattle coaches added to his confusion by hinting that Warner will have to fight off the challenges of such rookies as Elroy Harris, a third-round choice out of Eastern Kentucky, and talented 235-pound Derrick Fenner, who spent most of his collegiate career at North Carolina on the sideline because of personal problems.

**RECEIVERS**—The Seahawks used their top two 1988 draft picks on receivers, and that could start paying dividends in '89.

Brian Blades was good enough to break into the Seahawks' starting lineup last year and caught 40 passes while averaging 17.1 yards per reception. Tommy Kane was used sparingly but runs crisp patterns and has sure hands.

This will be the 14th and final season for Steve Largent, the NFL's all-time leading receiver. The 34-year-old Largent fought off injury problems last season and caught only 39 passes.

Paul Skansi returns as a solid third-down possession receiver, and Louis Clark is an improving wideout whom Knox chose to keep over veteran Ray Butler.

Free agency stripped Knox of his only experienced tight ends—Tice and John Spagnola. That leaves three untested youngsters—Robert Tyler, Jon Embree and fourth-round choice Travis McNeal.

**LINEMEN**—Two years ago, Knox labeled the offensive line his most solid unit. Now it's beginning to spring some leaks.

Center Bush is gone, and Knox will turn to backup Grant Feasel, a 277-pounder he plucked off the waiver wire in 1987. The biggest question about Feasel is his durability. He needed major knee reconstruction in 1986 and, just in case the knee can't survive 16 weeks of pounding, Knox drafted Arizona center Joe Tofflemire in the second round.

The rest of the line appears set. Bryan Millard and Edwin Bailey are solid at the guard spots. Mike Wilson and Ron Mattes should open the season as the starting tackles.

Both Wilson and Mattes will be looking over their shoulders, however, at 288-pound Andy Heck, the Seahawks' first-round selection out of Notre Dame.

## DEFENSE

**LINEMEN**—When Knox switched to a 3-4 defense in 1983, young ends Jacob Green and Jeff Bryant flanked nose tackle Joe Nash. Six seasons later, that threesome is still together—and showing signs of wear.

Green is 32 years old and entering his 10th season. The 254-pounder is quick enough to handle some of the league's slower tackles, but the young, quick 300-pounders are finding that they can simply overpower him. Nash, at 269 pounds, is in the same predicament. Bryant is 268 pounds and the strongest of the trio.



Except for Alonzo Mitz, an overachieving backup, the Seahawks have failed to develop adequate replacements. Ken Clarke, a 12-year veteran, is available to give Nash occasional breathers.

**LINEBACKERS**—Patience is running thin with The Boz. The Seahawks acceded to Brian Bosworth's wishes last season and moved him to an inside position. But an ailing left shoulder forced him to miss six games and he was mostly ineffective when he did play. Darren Comeaux, a waiver pickup, filled in for the injured Bosworth and actually played better.

The rest of the linebacking corps is slowly taking shape.

Dave Wyman was a little erratic but developed into a solid force on the inside. Tony Woods, a 1987 first-round draft pick, started all season on the outside and showed steady improvement. Bruce Scholtz played well at the other outside spot while battling injuries.

One youngster to watch is 207-pound Rufus Porter, who made the Pro Bowl because of his special-teams play. He lacks the bulk but has the quickness and desire to be a blitzer.

**DEFENSIVE BACKS**—The entire secondary will be on trial this season.

Johnnie Johnson, a longtime starter at free safety for the Los Angeles Rams, was signed to challenge Seattle incumbent Eugene Robinson, a three-year starter. Robinson was the Seahawks' leading tackler last season, but his inability to pick off passes—he has only nine career interceptions—and his tendency to confuse some deep coverages has left him vulnerable.

Paul Moyer, Ken Easley's replacement at strong safety, is solid, but there are battles shaping up at the corners.

Patrick Hunter and Terry Taylor are the favorites if they don't self-destruct off the field. Taylor missed two games in 1988 because of a drug suspension and Hunter almost killed himself in a car accident. Both are excellent in pass coverage.

Their top challengers will be backup Mel Jenkins, who started all 16 games last year while Hunter and Taylor were out; James Jefferson, a three-year veteran of the Canadian Football League, and second-year man Dwayne Harper.

## SPECIAL TEAMS

As long as Rusty Tillman is in charge of special teams, this will be a Seattle strength.

Tillman always seems to find a way to stay one jump ahead of other NFL coaches. Last year, he replaced Fred Young with Porter. This year he must replace Bobby Joe Edmonds, the best kick returner in franchise history.

That job could fall to James Henry, a fourth-round draft pick out of Southern Mississippi. The youngster returned eight punts for touchdowns in his junior and senior years. Jefferson also has experience as a return specialist.

Left-footed punter Ruben Rodriguez solidified the Seahawks' kicking game last season. Placekicker Norm Johnson made 22 of 28 field-goal attempts despite a bad back problem. ■

# SEAHAWKS DATA

## 1989 ROSTER

QUARTERBACKS	Ht./Wt.	NFL Exp.	College	1988 Games GP/GS
Kemp, Jeff	6-0/198	9	Dartmouth	11/1
Krieg, Dave	6-1/192	10	Milton (Wis.)	9/9
Mathison, Bruce	6-3/205	5	Nebraska	0/0
Stouffer, Kelly	6-3/210	2	Colorado State	8/6
RUNNING BACKS	Ht./Wt.	NFL Exp.	College	1988 Games GP/GS
Burse, Tony (FB)	6-0/220	2	Middle Tennessee State	*0/0
Fenner, Derrick	6-4/220	D10	North Carolina	—
Harmon, Kevin	6-0/190	2	Iowa	5/0
Harris, Elroy	5-9/210	D3	Eastern Kentucky	—
McLemore, Chris (FB)	6-1/230	3	Arizona	*7/0
Warner, Curt	5-11/205	6	Penn State	16/16
Williams, John L. (FB)	5-11/226	4	Florida	16/16
RECEIVERS	Ht./Wt.	NFL Exp.	College	1988 Games GP/GS
Blades, Brian	5-11/182	2	Miami (Fla.)	16/7
Clark, Louis	6-0/193	3	Mississippi State	7/0
Embrege, Jon (TE)	6-2/230	2	Colorado	*12/0
Kane, Tommy	5-11/180	2	Syracuse	9/0
Largent, Steve	5-11/191	14	Tulsa	15/15
McNeal, Bryan (TE)	6-3/235	D4a	Tennessee-Chattanooga	—
Pattison, Mark	6-2/191	4	Washington	*6/0
Sandusky, Jim	5-9/180	CFL	San Diego State	*17
Skansi, Paul	5-11/184	7	Washington	16/1
Tyler, Robert (TE)	6-5/259	1	South Carolina State	IR
OFFENSIVE LINEMEN	Ht./Wt.	NFL Exp.	College	1988 Games GP/GS
Bailey, Edwin (G)	6-4/273	9	South Carolina State	16/16
Des Rochers, Dave (T)	6-7/290	1	San Diego State	IR
Feasel, Grant (C)	6-7/277	5	Ablene Christian	16/2
Frank, David (G)	6-3/283	D9	Connecticut	—
Heck, Andy (T)	6-5/270	D1	Notre Dame	—
Mattes, Ron (T)	6-6/302	4	Virginia	16/16
Millard, Bryan (G)	6-5/281	6	Texas	15/14
Thomas, Kevin (C)	6-2/268	2	Arizona State	*10/0
Tofflemire, Joe (C)	6-2/268	D2	Arizona	—
Traynowicz, Mark (G)	6-5/280	5	Nebraska	*9/0
Williams, Doug (T)	6-6/295	3	Texas A&M	*IR
Wilson, Mike (T)	6-5/274	12	Georgia	16/16
DEFENSIVE LINEMEN	Ht./Wt.	NFL Exp.	College	1988 Games GP/GS
Barbay, Roland (NT)	6-4/270	2	Louisiana State	IR
Baum, Mike (E)	6-4/260	D11	Northwestern	—
Bryant, Jeff (E)	6-5/268	8	Clemson	16/12
Clarke, Ken (NT)	6-1/271	12	Syracuse	16/1
Green, Jacob (E)	6-3/254	10	Texas A&M	16/16
Hart, Roy (NT)	6-1/280	1	South Carolina	IR
Mitz, Alonzo (E)	6-3/271	4	Florida	16/4
Nash, Joe (NT)	6-2/269	8	Boston College	15/15
Wilburn, Steve (E)	6-4/266	2	Illinois State	*0/0
Williams, Marlin (E)	6-4/260	D8	Western Illinois	—
LINEBACKERS	Ht./Wt.	NFL Exp.	College	1988 Games GP/GS
Bosworth, Brian	6-2/248	3	Oklahoma	10/10
Comeaux, Darren	6-1/227	8	Arizona State	9/6
Henton, Anthony	6-1/234	3	Troy (Ala.) State	*16/4
Johnson, M.L.	6-3/229	3	Hawaii	16/1
Miller, Darrin	6-1/227	2	Tennessee	16/0
Porter, Rufus	6-1/207	2	Southern (La.)	16/0
Scholtz, Bruce	6-6/241	8	Texas	15/15
Woods, Tony	6-4/244	3	Pittsburgh	16/16
Wyman, David	6-2/234	3	Stanford	16/16
DEFENSIVE BACKS	Ht./Wt.	NFL Exp.	College	1988 Games GP/GS
Glasgow, Nesby (S)	5-10/187	11	Washington	16/0
Harper, Dwayne (CB)	5-11/165	2	South Carolina State	16/1
Henry, James (CB)	5-9/191	D4b	Southern Mississippi	—
Hollis, David (S)	5-11/180	3	Nevada-Las Vegas	*8/0
Hunter, Patrick (CB)	5-11/185	4	Nevada-Reno	10/7
Jefferson, James (CB)	6-1/195	CFL	Texas A&I	*18
Jenkins, Melvin (CB)	5-10/182	3	Cincinnati	16/16
Johnson, Johnnie (S)	6-1/183	10	Texas	*16/16
Kors, R. J.	6-0/195	D12	Long Beach State	—
Moyer, Paul (S)	6-1/196	7	Arizona State	16/16
Nettles, Mike (CB)	5-10/190	D7	Memphis State	—
Robinson, Eugene (S)	6-0/183	5	Colgate	16/16
Taylor, Terry (CB)	5-10/181	6	Southern Illinois	14/8
SPECIALISTS	Ht./Wt.	NFL Exp.	College	1988 Games GP/GS
Barker, Bryan (P)	6-1/175	1	Santa Clara	0/0
Johnson, Norm (K)	6-2/197	8	UCLA	16/0
Rodriguez, Ruben (P)	6-2/214	3	Arizona	16/0
Sampson, Steve (P)	6-3/211	1	Arkansas State	0/0

### OTHER FREE AGENTS IN CAMP

Willie Bouyer, WR; Tim Broady, S; Tony Brown, FB; Tyler Burdick, TE; Karl Burnice, OT; Joe Cain, LB; Tom Caines, LB; Gilbert Dudley, DE; Heikoti Fakava, RB; Lucius Floyd, RB; Jethro Franklin, DE; Neil Galbraith, CB; Darryl Hall, S; Jesse Hatcher, LB; Smokey Hodge, LB; Ian Howfield, K; Dale Jackson, LB; Tony Logan, WR; Keith McCoy, CB; Ted McNairy, G; Boo Mitchell, WR; Alex Morris, DB; Pat Pearson, G; Tim Peoples, S; John Pettygrove, FB; Robert Pickett, LB; Mike Ramos, S; Desmond Royal, NT; Mark Schwegman, G; Lee Marke Sellers, TE; Rod Stephens, LB; Jeff Stephenson, LB; Mike Stumberg, LB; Willie Thomas, DB; Gary Tyler, DB; Monte Weathers, WR; Byron Woodard, G.

\*Not with Seattle in 1988.

†Includes totals with both Seattle and another NFL team in 1988.

IR—Injured reserve.

Key to abbreviations on page 160.

## COACHES

Head coach—Chuck Knox.

Assistant coaches—

John Becker (offensive coordinator/receivers).

Tom Catlin (assistant head coach/defensive coordinator/linebackers).

George Dyer (defensive line).

Chick Harris (offensive backs).

Ken Meyer (quarterbacks).

Rod Perry (defensive backs).

Russ Purnell (tight ends/assistant special teams).

Kent Stephenson (offensive line).

Rusty Tillman (linebackers/special teams).

Joe Vitt (special assignments).

## RECORDS/RANKINGS

1988 regular-season record: 9-7 (1st in AFC West); 6-2 in division; 8-4 in conference; 5-3 at home; 4-4 on road.

1988 playoff record: Lost to Cincinnati, 21-13, in AFC semifinals.

1988 team rankings: total offense, 12th in AFC/23rd in NFL; total defense, 12th/24th; rushing offense, 8th/10th; rushing defense, 11th/24th; passing offense, 11th/23rd; passing defense, 11th/20th; scoring offense, 5th/12th; scoring defense, 16th/16th; takeaways, T2nd/T5th; giveaways, T9th/T15th; turnover differential, 4th/T7th; sacks, T9th/T20th; sacks allowed, 4th/8th.

Knox's regular-season record: 57-38 in 16 seasons with Seahawks; 148-89-1 in 16 NFL seasons overall.

Knox's postseason record: 7-11 in playoffs with Rams, Bills and Seahawks.

Team record last five years: 48-31 (.608, ranks 16th in league in that span).

## 1989 SCHEDULE

Sept. 10—at Philadelphia	
Sept. 17—at Phoenix	
Sept. 24—at New England	
Oct. 1—at Los Angeles Raiders	
Oct. 8—at Kansas City	
Oct. 15—at San Diego	
Oct. 22—at Denver	
Oct. 29—at San Diego	
Nov. 5—at Kansas City	
Nov. 12—at Cleveland	
Nov. 19—at New York Giants	
Nov. 26—at Denver	
Dec. 4—Buffalo (Mon.)	
Dec. 10—at Cincinnati	
Dec. 17—at Los Angeles Raiders	
Dec. 23—Washington (Sat.)	

## 1988 RESULTS

Sept. 4—at Denver	21-14
Sept. 11—at Kansas City	31-10
Sept. 18—at San Diego	6-17
Sept. 25—at San Francisco	7-38
Oct. 2—at Atlanta	31-20
Oct. 9—at Cleveland	16-10
Oct. 16—at New Orleans	19-20
Oct. 23—at L.A. Rams	10-31
Oct. 30—at San Diego	17-14
Nov. 6—Buffalo	3-13
Nov. 13—at Houston	27-24
Nov. 20—at Kansas City	24-27
Nov. 28—L.A. Raiders	35-27
Dec. 4—at New England	7-13
Dec. 11—at Denver	42-14
Dec. 18—at L.A. Raiders	43-37

## 1988 LEADERS

Scoring (kicking): Norm Johnson, 105 pts. (39/39 PATs, 22/28 FGs).

Scoring (touchdowns): Curt Warner, 72 pts. (10 rushing, 2 receiving).

Passing: Dave Krieg, 1,741 yds. (228 att., 134 comp., 58.8%, 18 TDs, 8 int.).

Rushing: Curt Warner, 1,025 yds. (3.9 avg., 10 TDs).

Receptions: John L. Williams, 58 (651 yds., 11.2 avg., 3 TDs).

Interceptions: Paul Moyer, 6 (79 yds., 0 TDs).

Tackles: Eugene Robinson, 114.

Sacks: Jacob Green, 9.

Punting: Ruben Rodriguez, 40.8 avg. (70 punts, 2,858 yds., 0 blocked).

Punt returns: Bobby Joe Edmonds, 9.7 avg. (35 att., 340 yds., 0 TDs).

Kickoff returns: Bobby Joe Edmonds, 22.5 avg. (40 att., 900 yds., 0 TDs).



# Free agency strips Bengals of 'Super' depth

By JACK BRENNAN  
Cincinnati Post

**R**est on their laurels?

If the Cincinnati Bengals had any less cushiony berth to rest upon after winning the 1988 AFC championship, they'd be sitting on a bed of tacks.

Oh, they look all right at first glance. Of the 24 players, including kickers, who started in Super Bowl XXIII, no one has retired or otherwise left the team.

But underneath the veneer, termites have been at work. The Bengals, a surprising 12-4 in the 1988 regular season, have more rebuilding to do than any Super Bowl team in years, if not ever.

Nose tackle Tim Krumrie, their best defensive lineman, broke his leg in the Super Bowl and may not be 100 percent to open the season. Tackle Joe Walter, rapidly challenging Anthony Munoz as the team's best offensive lineman, probably will miss the entire season after blowing out a knee last December.

Capable fullback Stanley Wilson has been lost to a third drug suspension, quarterback Boomer Esiason's prospects were clouded by persistent off-season shoulder soreness and then there is "Plan B."

Cincinnati lost nine players to the free-agent signing frenzy, frugal management didn't sign anyone and the Bengals' depth now looks insufficient to withstand injuries to the starting corps. The most depleted areas are the offensive line, the defensive secondary, running back and linebacker.

With a lot of help from rookies, and/or good luck on injuries, the Bengals should again challenge for the conference title.



*Strong safety David Fulcher staked a claim last season to being the NFL's best at his position.*

The keys will be resurrecting the passing game, which died with Esiason's sore shoulder, and continued improvement from a small but speedy defense.

## COACHING

Sam Wyche, Cincinnati's favorite whipping boy after the 1987 season, confounded his critics by winning Coach of the Year honors in 1988. He simplified his sometimes-too-complex offense with great results and took fewer silly gambles, but still remained an aggressive innovator.

Wyche has everyone scared with his no-huddle "attack" offense, which rival coaches failed to legislate out during the National Football League meetings.

He also did a superb job of holding the team together, particularly during the early season, when the public had little confidence in his regime.

## OFFENSE

**QUARTERBACKS**—Esiason was the NFL's Most Valuable Player and also its passing champion in 1988, and he enters this season at the peak quarterbacking age of 28. He has talent, a willingness to dare and unquestioned leadership ability.

But Cincinnati fans won't be able to rest easy until he can show he is recovered from the shoulder soreness that forced the Bengals to rely almost exclusively on their running game late last season. Though surgery was not deemed necessary, the puzzling condition plagued Esiason well into the off-season.

Eight-year veteran Turk Schonert, considered the ideal backup not long ago, has

thrown only four passes the last two seasons. He'll need a productive preseason to fend off third-round draft pick Erik Wilhelm of Oregon State.

**RUNNING BACKS**—If fullback Ickey Woods and halfback James Brooks remain healthy, the Bengals should continue to boast one of the league's best tandems.

The powerful Woods was the second-round steal of the 1988 draft, gaining 1,066 yards, scoring 15 touchdowns and posting the best per-carry average (5.3) among all running backs with 40 or more carries. Brooks' production tailed off somewhat late last season, but he still deservedly made the Pro Bowl with 1,218 combined rushing and receiving yards.

Stanford Jennings is a consistent producer as a backup at both positions. Second-round draft pick Eric Ball (UCLA) has the talent to be a big contributor, but must shake his college injury hex.

**RECEIVERS**—This is the Bengals' strongest and deepest area, despite two serious injuries suffered last season.

Flanker Eddie Brown caught 53 passes in his fourth NFL season, and his 24-yard average was by far the best among receivers with 50 or more receptions. Tim McGee moved ahead of Cris Collinsworth into the starting split end spot and averaged 19.1 yards on 36 catches.

Collinsworth has lost some speed but could become one of the league's best possession receivers if he puts his mind to it. Ira Hillary could start for some teams at wideout, and Mike Martin will attempt a comeback from Achilles tendon surgery.

Tight end is equally well stocked. Rodney Holman's superior blocking earned him a Pro Bowl bid for the first time, and he also caught 39 passes for 527 yards. Jim Riggs and Eric Kattus, the latter returning from major knee surgery, have proven more than adequate as backups.

**LINEMEN**—Serious damage has been incurred here since late last season, when this unit's run blocking and pass protection earned it wide acclaim as the best in the league.

The loss of Walter at right tackle makes it likely that veteran reserve Brian Blados will start. Bruce Kozerski could be moved to right tackle, clearing the way for second-year center Paul Jetton.

Munoz will shoot for his eighth Pro Bowl at left tackle, and the starting guard positions are in good shape with Max Montoya and Bruce Reimers. But the depth of this unit was shot when center/guard David Douglas and tackle Dave Smith opted for sizable free-agent raises.

The Bengals need second-round pick Freddie Childress (Arkansas), a mammoth guard, to be ready to play early.

## DEFENSE

**LINEMEN**—Much could hinge on the health of Krumrie. The Pro Bowl nose tackle, the heart and soul of this defensive team, suffered a broken leg during Super Bowl XXIII and is rated about 50-50 to be

## AT A GLANCE

**Strengths:** On the offense, pick your spot. There are players elected to last season's Pro Bowl at quarterback, running back, wide receiver, tight end and on the offensive line. The Bengals led the NFL in points, yards and rushing yards, and tackle Joe Walter is the only offensive starter not ready for 1989.

**Weaknesses:** Lack of depth everywhere due to free-agent losses. Lack of size among the front seven on defense. Special teams, though improved, still have much to prove.

**Key to success:** Continued improvement from within by the defense. This unit won on heart as much as on talent in '88, and it received no apparent help in the draft.

**Sure sign of trouble:** Even a moderate run of early injuries to first-teamers could expose a lack of depth.

**That's a fact:** 1-7 at Riverfront Stadium in 1987, the Bengals went 10-0 last year at the newly named "Jungle."

**The head coach says:** "I've written letters to all our players during the off-season. I told them: 'We had a tremendous year in 1988, a storybook year in a lot of ways. Now we're going to find out if we're a truly good team, or just a team that put together one good year.'"





ready for the season opener.

The Bengals are keeping their fingers tightly crossed, even though promising second-year man David Grant and fourth-year pro Mike Hammerstein provide adequate depth at the position.

The Bengals don't frighten anyone with their defensive ends, but starters Jim Skow and Jason Buck, both on the light side, were effective players last season. The bigger and more powerful Grant may see some time at end if he isn't needed inside, and 280-pound Skip McClendon provides adequate backup strength at both end and tackle.

**LINEBACKERS**—No one faults the effort this group made last season, but in private, club officials have a word for their linebackers—"average."

Great size and superior speed are missing. Reggie Williams, the Bengals' best-known linebacker, is coming off a good 1988 season, but he's 34 years old and entering his 14th season. At the other outside spot, Leon White has shown a knack for making the big play.

On the inside, Carl Zander is tough and a hard worker. Joe Kelly, a 1986 No. 1 draft pick, has speed and a fiery attitude, but the Bengals have not been impressed by his consistency.

A key question mark is second-year man Kevin Walker, who played well early in 1988 before suffering a serious knee injury. Leo Barker is the most experienced and versatile reserve.

**DEFENSIVE BACKS**—No area of the team was as improved in 1988. Free-agent losses have made depth a potential problem, but the starting positions remain well stocked with youthful talent.

Cornerbacks Lewis Billups and Eric Thomas, considered shaky entering last season, enjoyed stellar campaigns. They kept talented Rickey Dixon, the team's No. 1 draft pick, in the role of nickel back.

David Fulcher, Cincinnati's 228-pound strong safety, staked a claim last season to being the NFL's best at his position. Invaluable against the run, he also is more than adequate at pass coverage. Solomon Wilcotts is the returning starting free safety, but he could be challenged by Dixon or veteran Robert Jackson, who returns after missing 1988 in a contract dispute.

## SPECIAL TEAMS

Placekicker Jim Breech starts to run out of leg after about 42 yards, but he is consistently accurate on short- and medium-range field goals.

Lee Johnson had a checkered punting history with Cleveland and Houston but was consistently competent in '88. Johnson also kicks off effectively and can fill in for Breech on long field-goal tries. He bagged a 50-yarder last season.

Coverage teams and return teams, kick protection and kick-block teams have been a major headache in recent years. Two of last season's four losses were credited to the special teams.

These units did improve late in the year, closing with a fine Super Bowl. But Cincinnati's loss of veteran backup players to free agency robbed the club of some of its better special-teams talent. ■

# BENGALS DATA

## 1989 ROSTER

QUARTERBACKS	Ht./Wt.	NFL Exp.	College	1988 Games GP/GS
Esiason, Boomer	6-5/225	5	Maryland	16/16
Jean, Bob	6-2/210	D10b	New Hampshire	—
Schonert, Turk	6-1/196	10	Stanford	16/0
Wilhelm, Erik	6-3/201	D3	Oregon State	—
RUNNING BACKS	Ht./Wt.	NFL Exp.	College	1988 Games GP/GS
Ball, Eric	6-2/216	D2a	UCLA	—
Brooks, James	5-10/182	9	Auburn	15/15
Holifield, John	6-0/202	1	West Virginia	IR
Jennings, Stanford	6-1/205	6	Furman	16/1
Taylor, Craig	5-11/224	D6	West Virginia	—
Woods, Ickey	6-2/232	2	Nevada-Las Vegas	16/10
RECEIVERS	Ht./Wt.	NFL Exp.	College	1988 Games GP/GS
Brown, Eddie	6-0/185	5	Miami (Fla.)	16/16
Collinsworth, Cris	6-5/192	9	Florida	13/0
Hillary, Ira	5-11/190	3	South Carolina	16/10
Holman, Rodney (TE)	6-3/238	8	Tulane	16/16
Kattus, Eric (TE)	6-5/235	4	Michigan	4/0
Martin, Mike	5-10/186	7	Illinois	4/0
McGee, Tim	5-10/175	4	Tennessee	16/15
Parker, Carl	6-2/201	2	Vanderbilt	3/0
Riggs, Jim (TE)	5-5/245	3	Clemson	16/1
Smith, Kendal	5-9/185	D7	Utah State	—
OFFENSIVE LINEMEN	Ht./Wt.	NFL Exp.	College	1988 Games GP/GS
Blados, Brian (G)	6-5/295	6	North Carolina	16/1
Childress, Freddie (G)	6-4/340	D2b	Arkansas	—
Jetton, Paul (G)	6-4/288	1	Texas	IR
Jones, Scott (T)	6-5/275	D12	Washington	—
Kozerski, Bruce (C/G)	6-4/275	6	Holy Cross	16/16
Montoya, Max (G)	6-5/275	11	UCLA	15/15
Munoz, Anthony (T)	6-6/278	10	Southern California	16/16
Reimers, Bruce (T)	6-7/280	6	Iowa State	16/16
Stephens, Richard (T)	6-7/305	D9	Tulsa	—
Walter, Joe (T)	6-6/290	5	Texas Tech	16/16
Woods, Rob (T)	6-6/280	D4b	Arizona	—
DEFENSIVE LINEMEN	Ht./Wt.	NFL Exp.	College	1988 Games GP/GS
Buck, Jason (E)	6-5/265	3	Brigham Young	16/0
Grant, David (NT)	6-4/277	2	West Virginia	16/0
Hammerstein, Mike (E)	6-4/270	4	Michigan	IR
Krumrie, Tim (NT)	6-2/268	6	Wisconsin	16/16
McClendon, Skip (DE)	6-7/275	3	Arizona State	16/16
Skow, Jim (E)	6-3/255	4	Nebraska	16/16
Tuataagaloa, Natu (T)	6-4/255	D5	California	—
Wells, Dana (NT)	6-1/265	D11	Arizona	—
LINEBACKERS	Ht./Wt.	NFL Exp.	College	1988 Games GP/GS
Barker, Leo	6-2/227	6	New Mexico St.	16/1
Brady, Ed	6-2/235	6	Illinois	16/0
Chenault, Chris	6-2/240	D8	Kentucky	—
Kelly, Joe	6-2/231	4	Washington	16/5
Owens, Kerry	6-1/233	D4a	Arkansas	—
Romer, Rich	6-3/214	2	Union (N.Y.)	4/0
Walker, Kevin	6-2/238	2	Maryland	3/0
White, Leon	6-3/245	4	Brigham Young	16/16
Williams, Reggie	6-1/232	14	Dartmouth	16/16
Zander, Carl	6-2/235	5	Tennessee	16/16
DEFENSIVE BACKS	Ht./Wt.	NFL Exp.	College	1988 Games GP/GS
Barber, Chris (S)	6-0/187	2	North Carolina A&T	IR
Billups, Lewis (CB)	5-11/190	4	North Alabama	16/16
Bussey, Barney (S)	6-0/195	4	South Carolina	16/0
Dixon, Rickey (CB)	5-11/177	2	Oklahoma	15/0
Fulcher, David (S)	6-3/228	4	Arizona State	16/16
Holloway, Cornell (CB)	5-11/185	D10a	Pittsburgh	—
Jackson, Robert	5-10/186	7	Central Michigan	0/0
Thomas, Eric (CB)	5-11/181	3	Tulane	16/16
Wilcotts, Solomon (CB)	5-11/185	3	Colorado	16/16
SPECIALISTS	Ht./Wt.	NFL Exp.	College	1988 Games GP/GS
Breech, Jim (K)	5-6/161	11	California	16/0
Fulhage, Scott (P)	5-11/191	3	Kansas State	13/0
Gallery, Jim (K)	6-1/190	2	Minnesota	0/0
Johnson, Lee (P)	6-2/198	5	Brigham Young	0/0
Vesling, Tim (K)	5-11/178	1	Syracuse	0/0

## OTHER FREE AGENTS IN CAMP

Dennis Allen, WR; Richard Carey, CB; Gary Couch, WR; Matt D'Amico, LB; Phil Ferguson, DE; John Garrett, C; Rich Gicewicz, TE; Brett Grimshaw, RB; Tom Gruno, LB; John Guerrero, OT; Frank Harris, TE; Tony Harvey, WR; James Howard, CB; Jeff Jacobs, WR; Al McKinney, RB; Ken Moyer, OT; Mark Rothwell, WR; Kevin Simons, OG/OT; Phil Stuart, OT; Carnell Washington, NT.

\*Includes totals with both Cincinnati and another NFL team in 1988.

IR—Injured reserve.

Key to abbreviations on page 160.

## COACHES

Head coach—Sam Wyche.

Assistant coaches—

Jim Anderson (offensive backfield).  
Bruce Coslet (offensive coordinator).  
Bill Johnson (tight ends).  
Dick LeBeau (defensive coordinator).  
Jim McNally (offensive line).  
Dick Selcer (linebackers).  
Mike Stock (special teams).  
Chuck Studley (defensive line).  
Kim Wood (strength).

## RECORDS/RANKINGS

**1988 regular-season record:** 12-4 (1st in AFC Central); 4-2 in division; 8-4 in conference; 8-0 at home; 4-4 on road.

**1988 playoff record:** Defeated Seattle, 21-13, in AFC semifinals; defeated Buffalo, 21-10, in AFC championship; lost to San Francisco, 20-16, in Super Bowl.

**1988 team rankings:** total offense, 1st in AFC/1st in NFL; total defense, 6th/15th; rushing offense, 1st/1st; rushing defense, 6th/18th; passing offense, 4th/11th; passing defense, 6th/10th; scoring offense, 1st/1st; scoring defense, 16th/16th; takeaways, 4th/11th; giveaways, 11st/23rd; turnover differential, 2nd/5th; sacks, 13rd/19th; sacks allowed, 15th/19th.

**Wyche's regular-season record:** 41-38 in 5 seasons with Bengals.

**Wyche's postseason record:** 2-1 in playoffs with Bengals (0-1 in Super Bowl).

**Team record last five years:** 41-38 (.519, ranks T13th in league in that span).

## 1989 SCHEDULE

Sept. 10	at Chicago
Sept. 17	Pittsburgh
Sept. 25	Cleveland (Mon.)
Oct. 1	at Kansas City
Oct. 8	at Pittsburgh
Oct. 15	Miami
Oct. 22	Indianapolis
Oct. 29	Tampa Bay
Nov. 5	at Los Angeles Raiders
Nov. 13	at Houston (Mon.)
Nov. 19	Detroit
Nov. 26	at Buffalo
Dec. 3	at Cleveland
Dec. 10	Seattle
Dec. 17	Houston
Dec. 25	at Minnesota (Mon.)

## 1988 RESULTS

Sept. 4	Phoenix	21-14
Sept. 11	at Philadelphia	28-24
Sept. 18	at Pittsburgh	17-12
Sept. 25	Cleveland	24-17
Oct. 2	at L.A. Raiders	45-21
Oct. 9	N.Y. Jets	36-19
Oct. 16	at New England	21-27
Oct. 23	Houston	44-21
Oct. 30	at Cleveland	16-23
Nov. 6	Pittsburgh	42-7
Nov. 13	at Kansas City	28-31
Nov. 20	at Dallas	38-24
Nov. 27	Buffalo	35-21
Dec. 4	San Diego	27-10
Dec. 11	at Houston	6-41
Dec. 17	Washington (OT)	20-17

## 1988 LEADERS

**Scoring (kicking):** Jim Breech, 89 pts. (56/59 PATs, 11/16 FGs).

**Scoring (touchdowns):** Ickey Woods, 90 pts. (15 rushing).

**Passing:** Boomer Esiason, 3,572 yds. (388 att., 223 comp., 57.5%, 28 TDs, 14 int.).

**Rushing:** Ickey Woods, 1,066 yds. (5.3 avg., 15 TDs).

**Receptions:** Eddie Brown, 53 (1,273 yds., 24.0 avg., 9 TDs).

**Interceptions:** Eric Thomas, 7 (61 yds., 0 TDs).

**Tackles:** Tim Krumrie, 152 (98 solo, 54 assisted).

**Sacks:** Jim Skow, 9½ (87 yds.).

**Punting:** Lee Johnson, 42.4 avg. (14 punts, 594 yds., 0 blocked with Bengals; 39.9 avg., 31 punts, 1,237 yds., 0 blocked with Browns and Bengals).

**Punt returns:** Ira Hillary, 9.8 avg. (17 att., 166 yds., 0 TDs).

**Kickoff returns:** Stanford Jennings, 21.4 avg. (32 att., 684 yds., 1 TD).



# Browns bring in Carson to get over AFC hump

By JEFF SCHUDEL  
Ingersoll Publications

**W**arning: Do not use the phrase "transition year" in conjunction with the Cleveland Browns. Or, if you do, make sure it's not within earshot of Owner Art Modell or new Coach Bud Carson.

The Browns have won more regular-season games (32) than any team in the AFC over the last three years and they've qualified for the playoffs four straight times. Two of those seasons ended with narrow losses in the AFC title game.

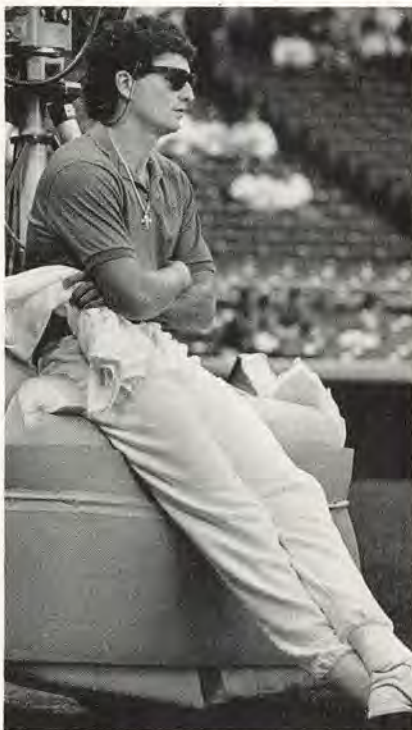
Not good enough, says Modell.

Marty Schottenheimer, who coached the Browns to a 46-31 record in 4½ years, was forced to resign when he refused to accept Modell's demands, one of which was to hire an offensive coordinator.

Carson, with no delusions about his assignment, was hired along with nine new assistants to get the Browns over the hill that Schottenheimer couldn't climb.

"I know what happens to coaches who lose," said Carson, the New York Jets' defensive coordinator for the last four seasons who owns two Super Bowl rings from his years as an assistant with the Pittsburgh Steelers. "But I also know what happens when you win."

"I didn't like what I was seeing in the AFC," Modell said of his decision to hire Carson. "I felt we were regressing while Cincinnati, Houston and Buffalo were making dramatic improvements. I saw the same thing happen to this franchise in the early '70s when we waited too long to



*Bernie Kosar is healthy after missing eight games last season because of elbow and knee sprains.*

make changes. I wasn't going to let that happen again."

## COACHING

Except for a five-year stint as head coach at Georgia Tech, Carson has spent his coaching career on the defensive side of the ball. Consequently, he makes no apologies about leaving the play-calling to offensive coordinator Marc Trestman, a holdover from the Schottenheimer era.

Trestman promises a new offensive look. He said he plans to throw the ball, and throw it deep. He also plans to put renewed emphasis on the Browns' running attack and simplify blocking schemes for the linemen.

When the Browns aren't attacking on offense, they should be attacking defensively. Carson and defensive coordinator Dan Radakovich have decided on a 4-3 defense designed to increase the rush.

## OFFENSE

**QUARTERBACKS**—"Bernie Kosar will have the eye of the tiger this year," tight end Ozzie Newsome predicted.

Kosar is healthy after missing eight games last season. He missed six after spraining his right elbow on a blitz by Kansas City safety Lloyd Burruss in the season opener, and he missed the final game of the regular season and a 24-23 playoff loss to Houston after spraining his left knee against Miami.

Kosar is a dangerous weapon when working at full speed, and Cleveland's commitment to a deep passing game could be just what the doctor ordered.

Mike Pagel was elevated to the No. 2 quarterback spot when neither Gary Danielson nor Don Strock, veterans with a combined 26 years in the National Football League, were offered 1989 contracts.

**RUNNING BACKS**—The Browns will have a lot of new faces in their backfield.

Earnest Byner was shipped to Washington and Herman Fontenot was sent to Green Bay. The Browns went after speed to give their offense a new dimension.

They signed Keith Jones and Patrick Collins, two unprotected free agents they really like. And they landed Eric Metcalf, the flashy little running back from Texas, in the first round of the draft.

Fullback Keyin Mack, who suffered through an injury-riddled 1988 campaign, worked hard in the off-season to prevent the muscle pulls that have plagued him throughout his career.

**RECEIVERS**—Everybody raves about the Cincinnati receiving corps that features Eddie Brown and James Brooks. But the Browns are just as talented and probably deeper.

When they go to four receivers, opposing defenses could see the likes of Webster Slaughter, Reggie Langhorne, Metcalf and second-round draft pick Lawyer Tillman (Auburn) all flooding the secondary at the same time.

That doesn't leave much room for steady Brian Brennan, but he has been finding ways to get onto the field for five years and he'll probably find a way in 1989, too.

Forget the Ice Cube. Gerald McNeil's value melted when youngster Darryl Usher and veteran Ray Butler were signed as unprotected free agents, and it evaporated when Tillman was drafted.

**LINEMEN**—Now we come to the biggest question mark in Cleveland.

The Browns lost their starting quarterback five times last season, including Kosar twice. And Modell did not like what he was seeing.

"Bernie Kosar's getting the hell kicked out of him," he said last November. "I find that very, very, very disconcerting."

The Browns juggled existing players and simplified blocking schemes in an attempt to provide better quarterback protection. Paul Farren has been yanked at left tackle and switched to guard. Rickey Bolden will play left tackle. Center Gregg Rakoczy, who took most of the heat for last year's collapse, was promised help from both guards.

The biggest name lineman signed was Ted Banker, a free-agent guard who has played for the Jets since 1984.

The Browns are still looking for another starting tackle as well as backups. Ironically, they had several opportunities to pick linemen early in the draft but passed. Three tackles and two guards were taken in the first round after the Browns picked Metcalf. Another guard was taken with the first pick of the second round. Two tackles, two guards and two

## AT A GLANCE

**Strengths:** The Browns have an established quarterback in Bernie Kosar and this year he'll have a choice of targets. The secondary is deep again. If rookie Eric Metcalf can stay healthy, the offense will have a new dimension—outside speed.

**Weaknesses:** Defensive line coach John Teerlinck has an aggressive pass-rush philosophy, but he might not have the horses to carry it out. When Earnest Byner was traded, the Browns left themselves without a blocking back.

**Key to success:** The quarterbacks have to have a higher survival rate than last season. Five times in 1988 the starter had bones broken, shoulders separated or ligaments torn and could not continue.

**Sure sign of trouble:** If the offensive line can't protect the passer, the Browns are doomed. They lost four of five games last year when the starting quarterback was knocked out.

**That's a fact:** The Browns are reed-thin up front, but 28 offensive linemen were drafted before they took tackle Mike Graybill from Boston University in the seventh round.

**The head coach says:** "The Browns caught more blitzes late in the season than any team I've seen in a long time. That's when you should be picking up blitzes, but we didn't. The bottom line is we have to keep Kosar on his feet."





centers were taken in the second round after Tillman was drafted.

## DEFENSE

**LINEMEN**—Two things Cleveland seems destined never to have: a domed stadium and a fierce pass rusher.

While plans for the former have been scrapped, the latter is being sought desperately. Improving the pass rush was a major reason Carson was hired. It is the only reason Carson hired line coach John Teerlinck, a fanatic who says players lining up on the right side should sit on the left side of the bus so their left eye, which would be closer to the ball, can be trained by watching telephone poles streak by.

Veteran ends Carl Hairston and Al Baker and second-year end Michael Dean Perry are supposed to provide the firepower. The unknown factor is end Robert Banks, a free-agent pickup from Houston.

Two starters from last year, nose tackle Bob Golic and end Sam Clancy, were lost to free agency.

**LINEBACKERS**—Twelve-year veteran Clay Matthews, Mike Johnson and David Grayson will anchor the linebacking corps for the second straight year. Gone is Mike Junkin, traded to Kansas City on draft day.

Barry Krauss was picked up from Indianapolis and given a \$100,000 signing bonus and a two-year, \$900,000 contract.

Clifford Charlton, last year's No. 1 draft choice, was unimpressive in winter workouts. Third-round 1988 choice Van Waiters skipped the workouts to work on his degree at Indiana. His football status is shaky.

**DEFENSIVE BACKS**—The strongest part of the 1988 defense figures to be so again in 1989 with Hanford Dixon and Frank Minnifield at the corners. Second-year man Anthony Blaylock will muscle his way into playing time.

Carson at first was critical of his safeties, but recanted after watching films of Felix Wright and Brian Washington. Washington, the strong safety accused of not taking runners head-on last year, added 15 pounds and is rock solid.

## SPECIAL TEAMS

Five kicks were blocked in 1988. Matt Bahr had one extra-point attempt and two field-goal tries batted away. Punter Max Runager had two punts swatted in his face.

Paul Lanham, who rescued the Washington Redskins' special teams when he was hired midway through the 1987 season, was hired by Carson to do the same thing in Cleveland.

Metcalf probably will return punts and kicks, which he did at Texas. Mike Oliphant was acquired from Washington in the Byner deal to be a return man.

The Browns were caught off guard when Schottenheimer, who was hired as Kansas City's head coach, signed Runager as an unprotected free agent. They think they got lucky when they signed punter Bryan Wagner, who was left unprotected by the Chicago Bears.

Bahr will enter his 11th season as the Browns' steady placekicker. ■

# BROWNS DATA

## 1989 ROSTER

QUARTERBACKS	HT./WT.	NFL Exp.	College	1988 Games GP/GS
Kosar, Bernie	6-5/210	5	Miami (Fla.)	9/9
Norseth, Mike	6-2/200	3	Kansas	*1/0
Pagel, Mike	6-2/211	8	Arizona State	5/4
RUNNING BACKS				
Baker, Tony	5-10/180	3	East Carolina	4/0
Collins, Patrick	5-9/188	2	Oklahoma	*5/0
Jones, Keith	5-10/182	1	Nebraska	*0/0
Mack, Kevin (FB)	6-0/235	5	Clemson	11/11
Manoa, Tim (FB)	6-1/227	3	Penn State	16/4
Metcalf, Eric	5-9/180	D1	Texas	—
Oliphant, Mike	5-10/183	2	Puget Sound	*8/0
Swann, George	5-11/220	1	Miami (O.)	1R
RECEIVERS				
Aelits, Rick (TE)	6-5/245	D8	SE Missouri State	—
Birden, J.J.	5-9/160	1	Oregon	1R
Brennan, Brian	5-9/178	6	Boston College	16/1
Butler, Ray	6-3/203	10	Southern California	*11/5
Crawford, Derrick	5-10/185	2	Memphis State	*0/0
Joines, Vernon	6-1/190	D5b	Maryland	—
Langhorne, Reggie	6-2/200	5	Eliz. City (N.C.) St.	16/16
McNeil, Gerald (PR)	5-7/147	4	Baylor	16/0
Newsome, Ozzie (TE)	6-2/232	12	Alabama	16/14
Slaughter, Webster	6-0/170	4	San Diego State	8/8
Strozier, Wilbur (TE)	6-4/255	3	Georgia	*6/0
Tennell, Derek (TE)	6-5/245	3	UCLA	16/3
Tillman, Lawyer	6-4/227	D2	Auburn	—
Wilson, Teddy	5-9/170	2	Central Florida	*0/0
Woods, Chris	5-11/190	2	Auburn	*2/0
OFFENSIVE LINEMEN				
Aranson, Doug (G)	6-3/290	2	San Diego State	*0/0
Banker, Ted (G)	6-2/275	6	SE Missouri State	*11/8
Baugh, Tom (C)	6-3/290	4	Southern Illinois	*12/10
Bolden, Rickey (T)	6-4/280	5	Southern Methodist	16/3
Buddenberg, John (OT)	6-5/270	D10	Akron	—
Farren, Paul (T/G)	6-6/280	7	Boston University	15/15
Fike, Dan (G)	6-7/280	5	Florida	16/16
Graybill, Mike (OT)	6-7/265	D7	Boston University	—
Jones, Tony (T)	6-5/280	2	Western Carolina	4/0
Rakoczy, Gregg (C)	6-6/290	3	Miami (Fla.)	16/16
Risien, Cody (T)	6-7/280	10	Texas A&M	16/16
DEFENSIVE LINEMEN				
Baker, Al (E)	6-6/280	12	Colorado State	*14/4
Banks, Robert (E)	6-5/254	2	Notre Dame	*14/0
Bennett, Charles (E)	6-6/280	2	Southwestern Louisiana	*0/0
Buchanan, Charles (E)	6-3/245	2	Tennessee State	9/0
Gibson, Tom	6-7/250	1	Northern Arizona	*1R
Hairston, Carl (E)	6-2/280	14	Md.-Eastern Shore	14/13
Jones, Marlon (E)	6-4/260	2	Central (O.) State	16/1
Perkins, Ray (E)	6-6/255	2	Virginia	*0/0
Perry, Michael Dean (E)	6-0/285	2	Clemson	16/2
Pike, Chris	6-8/301	1	Tulsa	1R
Sims, Darryl (E)	6-3/290	5	Wisconsin	16/6
Stewart, Andrew (E)	6-4/256	D4	Cincinnati	—
LINEBACKERS				
Brown, Marlon	6-4/221	D12	Memphis State	—
Charlton, Clifford	6-3/240	2	Florida	16/1
Dean, Kevin	6-2/226	2	Texas Christian	*0/0
Grayson, David	6-2/230	3	Fresno State	16/14
Johnson, Eddie	6-1/225	9	Louisville	15/8
Johnson, Mike	6-1/225	4	Virginia Tech	16/16
Krauss, Barry	6-3/255	11	Alabama	*16/15
Matthews, Clay	6-2/245	12	Southern California	16/16
Teague, Pat	6-1/230	1	North Carolina State	*0/0
Waiters, Van	6-4/240	2	Indiana	16/0
DEFENSIVE BACKS				
Blaylock, Anthony (CB)	5-11/190	2	Winston-Salem State	12/0
Braggs, Stephen (CB)	5-10/180	3	Texas	16/1
Dixon, Hanford (CB)	5-11/195	9	Southern Mississippi	15/15
Gash, Thane (S)	6-0/200	2	East Tennessee State	16/1
Glenn, Kerry (CB)	5-9/175	4	Minnesota	*1R
Harper, Mark (CB)	5-9/185	4	Alcorn State	13/1
Hill, Will (S)	6-0/200	2	Bishop (Tex.)	16/1
Kramer, Kyle (S)	6-2/175	D5a	Bowling Green State	—
Minnifield, Frank (CB)	5-9/185	6	Louisville	15/15
Washington, Brian (S)	6-0/210	2	Nebraska	16/14
Wilkerson, Gary (CB)	6-0/181	D6	Penn State	—
Wright, Felix (S)	6-2/190	5	Drake	16/16
SPECIALISTS				
Bahr, Matt (K)	5-10/175	11	Penn State	16/0
Konrad, Chuck (P)	5-9/200	R	Miami (O.)	—
Plocki, Dan (K)	5-7/177	D11	Maryland	—
Stryzinski, Dan (P)	6-1/195	1	Indiana	*0/0
Wagner, Bryan (P)	6-2/200	3	Cal State Northridge	*16/0
OTHER FREE AGENTS IN CAMP				
Donava Fann, OT; Greg Grooms, RB; Booker Guyton, WR; John Hines, DE; Artis Jackson, DT; Fredrick Jones, LB; Lee Jones, DE; Paul McGowan, LB; Scooter Molander, QB; Gary Patton, RB; Vernice Smith, G/C; David Solon, OT; Tyrone Sorrells, G; John Talley, TE; Darryl Usher, WR/S.				

\*Not with Cleveland in 1988.  
IR—Injured reserve.  
Key to abbreviations on page 160.

## COACHES

**Head coach**—Bud Carson.  
**Assistant coaches**—  
Jed Hughes (secondary).  
Hal Hunter (offensive line).  
Stan Jones (strength and conditioning).  
Paul Lanham (special teams).  
Richard Mann (receivers).  
Dan Radakovich (defensive coordinator/linebackers).  
George Sefcik (running backs).  
Lionel Taylor (special assistant-offense/tight ends).  
John Teerlinck (defensive line).  
Marc Trestman (offensive coordinator/quarterbacks).  
Gary Wroblewski (assistant strength and conditioning).

## RECORDS/RANKINGS

**1988 regular-season record:** 10-6 (T2nd in AFC Central); 4-2 in division; 6-6 in conference; 6-2 at home; 4-4 on road.  
**1988 playoff record:** Lost to Houston, 24-23, in AFC wild-card game.  
**1988 team rankings:** total offense, 8th in AFC; 18th in NFL; total defense, 3rd/6th; rushing offense, 13th/24th; rushing defense, 5th/15th; passing offense, 3rd/9th; passing defense, 4th/6th; scoring offense, 11th/20th; scoring defense, 3rd/6th; takeaways, T10th/T21st; giveaways, T5th/T10th; turnover differential, T8th/T17th; sacks, 6th/T15th; sacks allowed, 10th/16th.

**Carson's regular-season record:** First year as NFL head coach.  
**Team record last five years:** 45-34 (.570, ranks 10th in league in that span).

## 1989 SCHEDULE

Sept. 10—at Pittsburgh  
Sept. 17—New York Jets  
Sept. 25—at Cincinnati (Mon.)  
Oct. 1—Denver  
Oct. 8—at Miami  
Oct. 15—Pittsburgh  
Oct. 23—Chicago (Mon.)  
Oct. 29—Houston  
Nov. 5—at Tampa Bay  
Nov. 12—at Seattle  
Nov. 19—Kansas City  
Nov. 23—at Detroit (Thanksgiving)  
Dec. 3—Cincinnati  
Dec. 10—at Indianapolis  
Dec. 17—Minnesota  
Dec. 23—at Houston (Sat.)

## 1988 RESULTS

Sept. 4—at Kansas City 6-3  
Sept. 11—N.Y. Jets 3-23  
Sept. 19—Indianapolis 23-17  
Sept. 25—at Cincinnati 17-24  
Oct. 2—at Pittsburgh 23-9  
Oct. 9—Seattle 10-16  
Oct. 16—Philadelphia 19-3  
Oct. 23—at Phoenix 29-21  
Oct. 30—Cincinnati 23-16  
Nov. 7—at Houston 17-24  
Nov. 13—at Denver 7-30  
Nov. 20—Pittsburgh 27-7  
Nov. 27—at Washington 17-13  
Dec. 4—Dallas 24-21  
Dec. 12—at Miami 31-38  
Dec. 18—Houston 28-23

## 1988 LEADERS

**Scoring (kicking):** Matt Bahr, 104 pts. (32/33 PATs, 24/29 FGs).  
**Scoring (touchdowns):** Reggie Langhorne, 48 pts. (1 rushing, 7 receiving).  
**Passing:** Bernie Kosar, 1,890 yds. (259 att., 156 comp., 60.2%, 10 TDs, 7 int.).  
**Rushing:** Earnest Byner, 576 yds. (3.7 avg., 3 TDs).  
**Receptions:** Earnest Byner, 59 (576 yds., 9.8 avg., 2 TDs).  
**Interceptions:** Felix Wright, 5 (126 yds., 0 TDs).  
**Tackles:** Mike Johnson, 132 (88 solo, 44 assisted).  
**Sacks:** Michael Dean Perry, 6 (42 yds.); Clay Matthews, 6 (35 yds.).  
**Punting:** Max Runager, 40.3 avg. (48 punts, 1,935 yds., 2 blocked; 40.0 avg., 49 punts, 1,959 yds., 2 blocked with 49ers and Browns).  
**Punt returns:** Gerald McNeil, 8.3 avg. (38 att., 315 yds., 0 TDs).  
**Kickoff returns:** Glenn Young, 21.9 avg. (29 att., 635 yds., 0 TDs).



# NFL's bad boys have sights set on Super Bowl

By JOHN McCLAIN  
Houston Chronicle

**T**he Coach in Black is back, and there is no evidence that the bad boys of the National Football League have cleaned up their act.

Why should they? Even though opponents continue to complain about their overaggressive style, the Houston Oilers have improved their record in each of the last three seasons and now believe they are ready to play for the big prize. Their us-against-the-world mentality has produced two consecutive playoff appearances. They recorded wild-card victories both years before falling in the divisional round to Denver (1987) and Buffalo (1988).

Jerry Glanville, the man in black, is an intense and complicated individual who thinks nothing of creating controversy and offending writers and opposing coaches. But there's nothing complicated about his 1989 goal: The Oilers must win their second-ever AFC Central title and earn the home-field advantage throughout the playoffs. If that happens, the Oilers, despite losing an NFL-high 15 unprotected free agents, have enough experienced offensive and defensive talent to contend for the Super Bowl.

## COACHING

Glanville gets little credit when the Oilers win and most of the blame when



*Halfback Mike Rozier is coming off his best NFL season.*

they lose. That's because his outspoken personality rubs many people the wrong way.

But that's just the way he likes it. Glanville is a solid X's and O's coach, good at preparing a game plan but still a little shaky on game day. He made fewer mistakes last season than in his first two. When he doesn't call the plays, he calls the formations. And he calls all the shots on defense.

It will be interesting to see how Glanville compensates for the loss of two offensive coaches—June Jones (quarterbacks) and Milt Jackson (receivers)—who took jobs with other teams. Jones was replaced by Kevin Gilbride, offensive coordinator the last two seasons at East Carolina, and Jackson was replaced by Ray Sherman, who handled the Oiler running backs in 1988.

## OFFENSE

**QUARTERBACKS**—Warren Moon has a new multimillion-dollar contract after earning his first trip to the Pro Bowl. His value was never more evident than early last season when he missed five games because of a fractured shoulder blade. With Cody Carlson in the lineup for the first time as a starter, the Oilers managed to win three of five games, but it was a struggle every step of the way.

Moon returned in the seventh game and developed into a premier quarterback, helping the Oilers rank second in the league in scoring. He had a 17-8 ratio of touchdowns to interceptions, the best of his career.

Moon is a vocal leader on the field and

a calming influence in the dressing room. He is adept at making reads on the run and throwing to the proper receivers.

Carlson has established himself as a solid backup.

**RUNNING BACKS**—Halfback is a deep, talented position.

Mike Rozier (1,002 yards rushing) and Allen Pinkett (513) are coming off their best seasons. Rozier runs between the tackles with an occasional sweep. Then comes Pinkett for a change of pace, using his uncanny cutback ability to gain most of his yards.

Lorenzo White, last year's No. 1 draft choice, spent a frustrating rookie season watching and learning. Barring injury, he may be doing the same thing in 1989.

Fullback Alonzo Highsmith spends most of his time blocking, and he does that very well. Since two backup fullbacks were lost to free agency, veteran Carl Byrum was signed off the Buffalo roster to give Highsmith an occasional breather.

**RECEIVERS**—The Oilers don't call their passing offense the "run-and-shoot," but that's what it is. They remove a tight end and running back for two extra wideouts, and all the receivers read the coverages on the run and adjust their routes accordingly.

Drew Hill and Ernest Givins have remarkable quickness and are difficult to cover one on one. Curtis Duncan, who comes off the bench in passing situations, has more straight-ahead speed than quickness.

The receiver with the best hands is Haywood Jeffires, a 1987 No. 1 pick who has spent much of his professional career on injured reserve. He was activated at the end of last season and gave a glimpse of his tremendous talent.

Starting tight end Jamie Williams was left unprotected and signed with San Francisco. Chris Verhulst, who spent his rookie season on special teams, and Calvin Magee, a free-agent signee, will battle for the job.

**LINEMEN**—In Mike Munchak and Bruce Matthews, the Oilers have one of the best guard tandems in the NFL. Munchak earned his fourth invitation to the Pro Bowl last season and Matthews made the team for the first time. Both are awesome run blockers who seldom get beat on pass protection.

They are flanked by solid tackles Bruce Davis and Dean Steinkuhler. Center Jay Pennison, a short but strong veteran, is a drive blocker with a nasty attitude.

Since the Oilers lost three linemen to free agency, they used their No. 1 draft pick on David Williams (Florida), a 292-pounder who can play either tackle position. Veteran George Yarno, who can play either center or guard, was signed as a free agent and will join veteran returnee Don Maggs in a backup role.

## DEFENSE

**LINEMEN**—This was the most improved unit on the team last season. Not only did

## AT A GLANCE

**Strengths:** Running backs Mike Rozier, Allen Pinkett, Alonzo Highsmith and Lorenzo White. They never run out of talent in this area behind an offensive line that was exceptional last season.



There isn't a better pair of guards in the league than Bruce Matthews and Mike Munchak. There is outstanding ability at wideout, and Warren Moon has become a premier quarterback.

**Weaknesses:** The defense gives up too many points and too many big plays. In three losses last season, the offense kept building leads, only to see the defense give them away. The pass coverage must improve. So, too, the kickoff- and punt-return units. Rookie Rod Harris could be the answer.

**Key to success:** Keeping the defensive players healthy. They don't have the depth or talent of the offense, so the main guys have to stay on the field to take some pressure off Warren Moon and company.

**Sure sign of trouble:** If the pass rush is as good as last season but the coverage continues to decline.

**That's a fact:** Even though Moon missed five games because of a fractured shoulder blade, the Oilers still finished second in the league in scoring.

**The head coach says:** "Plan B (free agency) cost us some good players and chemistry that helped us crawl out of a hole and become a playoff team. Nobody, though, has coaches or players who work harder than we do. I think the key to our team is our attitude. You might knock us down one time, but you won't knock us down twice. We're always going to come right back at you that much harder."



the linemen play the run well enough to help the Oilers rank fourth in the league in run defense, but they applied good pressure on the passer.

Ends Ray Childress and William Fuller shared the team lead with  $8\frac{1}{2}$  sacks apiece. Backup Sean Jones added  $7\frac{1}{2}$ . Childress moves inside on four-man fronts with Fuller and Jones at end.

The other inside spot is usually handled by the nose tackles, Doug Smith and Richard Byrd. Smith was having his best season in 1988 when he was suspended for substance abuse.

If Glenn Montgomery, a fifth-round draft choice out of Houston, makes the team, Byrd can return to the outside, where he is more effective.

**LINEBACKERS**—This is a veteran crew of overachievers.

Johnny Meads and Robert Lyles on the outside and John Grimsley and Al Smith on the inside are small, quick, tough and aggressive. Grimsley, the Oilers' leading tackler, earned a Pro Bowl invitation last season, while Meads recorded eight sacks.

Eugene Seale and Eric Fairs are veteran backups who excel on special teams. Second-round draft pick Scott Kozak (Oregon) figures to spend his first season on special teams. Free-agent signee Matt Monger is expected to provide depth on the inside and coverage teams.

**DEFENSIVE BACKS**—In 1987, this was the Oilers' strongest defensive unit. Last season, it was a disappointment. There's no reason why it can't rebound in '89.

Cornerbacks Steve Brown and Patrick Allen have 13 years of experience between them. They face bump-and-run coverage most of the time. Brown is more physical and plays the run well. Allen is a finesse corner and cover specialist.

Richard Johnson is a four-year veteran and the first player off the bench. Cris Dishman is the fourth corner.

Keith Bostic, the Oilers' starting strong safety for the last six years, was left unprotected and signed with the Indianapolis Colts, leaving a gaping hole. Quintin Jones, last year's No. 2 pick, had a wasted rookie year after holding out and then going down with nagging injuries. The job is his if he can hold off Bubba McDowell, a third-round 1989 pick out of Miami (Fla.).

Free safety is in good hands with Jeff Donaldson, a veteran who has become one of the most feared hitters in the league.

## SPECIAL TEAMS

Tony Zendejas is one of the league's better kickers. Punter Greg Montgomery, a third-round 1988 draft choice, lacked consistency in his rookie campaign.

Houston's coverage teams were superb, but a lot of special-teams performers were lured away as free agents. The Oilers tied a league record last season with five blocked punts. Seale, the best special-teams player, blocked two.

Return teams have been average for the last few seasons, but that could change if receiver Rod Harris (Texas A&M), a fourth-round pick, becomes the return threat they expect. ■

# OILERS DATA

## 1989 ROSTER

QUARTERBACKS	Ht./Wt.	NFL Exp.	College	1988 Games GP/GS
Carlson, Cody	6-3/199	3	Baylor	6/5
Hartlieb, Chuck	6-2/206	D12	Iowa	—
Moon, Warren	6-3/210	6	Washington	11/11
RUNNING BACKS				
Byrum, Carl (FB)	6-1/237	4	Mississippi Valley St.	*15/1
Emery, Larry	5-9/195	2	Wisconsin	0/0
Highsmith, Alfonso (FB)	6-1/234	3	Miami (Fla.)	16/16
Johnson, Tracy (FB)	6-0/230	D10	Clemson	—
Pinkett, Allen	5-9/192	4	Notre Dame	16/2
Rozier, Mike	5-10/213	5	Nebraska	15/14
White, Lorenzo	5-11/209	2	Michigan State	11/0
RECEIVERS				
Courville, Vincent	5-9/167	1	Rice	*0/0
Duncan, Curtis	5-11/185	3	Northwestern	16/0
Givins, Ernest	5-9/172	4	Louisville	16/16
Harris, Leonard	5-8/162	4	Texas Tech	16/0
Harris, Rod	5-10/183	D4	Texas A&M	—
Hill, Drew	5-9/175	10	Georgia Tech	16/16
Jackson, Kenny	5-11/180	6	Penn State	*7/0
Jeffries, Haywood	6-2/198	2	North Carolina State	2/0
Magee, Calvin (TE)	6-3/255	5	Southern (La.)	*13/3
Mrosko, Bob (TE)	6-6/256	D9	Penn State	—
Verhulst, Chris (TE)	6-2/249	2	Chico (Calif.) State	1/0
OFFENSIVE LINEMEN				
Davis, Bruce (T)	6-6/315	11	UCLA	16/16
Maarleveld, J.D. (T)	6-6/280	3	Maryland	*0
Maggs, Don	6-5/285	2	Tulane	16/0
Matthews, Bruce (G)	6-5/293	7	Southern California	16/16
Munchak, Mike (G)	6-3/284	8	Penn State	16/16
Pennington, Jay (C)	6-1/282	4	Nicholls State	16/16
Smider, Brian (T)	6-4/297	D11	West Virginia	—
Steinkuller, Dean (T)	6-3/291	6	Nebraska	16/16
Stroth, Vince (T)	6-4/275	3	Brigham Young	6/0
Williams, David (T)	6-5/292	D1	Florida	*16/5
Yarno, George	6-2/270	9	Washington State	*16/5
Young, Almon (G)	6-3/285	2	Bethune-Cookman	*0/0
DEFENSIVE LINEMEN				
Byrd, Richard (NT)	6-4/267	5	Southern Mississippi	16/7
Childress, Ray (E)	6-6/270	5	Texas A&M	16/16
Fuller, William (E)	6-3/269	4	North Carolina	16/15
Garalczky, Mark	6-6/275	3	Western Michigan	*14/0
Holle, Eric (NT)	6-5/265	5	Texas	0/0
Jones, Sean (E)	6-7/273	6	Northeastern	16/0
Montgomery, Glenn (NT)	6-0/267	D5	Houston	—
Ruth, Mike (NT)	6-2/275	2	Boston College	*0/0
Scotts, Colin (NT)	6-6/265	2	Hawaii	*1R
Smith, Doug (NT)	6-5/282	5	Auburn	12/10
LINEBACKERS				
Fairs, Eric	6-3/240	4	Memphis State	16/0
Grimsley, John	6-2/238	6	Kentucky	16/16
Kozak, Scott	6-3/226	D2	Oregon	—
Lyles, Robert	6-1/230	6	Texas Christian	16/16
Meads, Johnny	6-2/235	6	Nicholls State	16/16
Monger, Matt	6-1/238	4	Oklahoma State	*1R
Rogers, Tracy	6-2/247	D7	Fresno State	—
Seale, Eugene	5-10/240	3	Lamar	16/0
Smith, Al	6-1/236	3	Utah State	16/16
Williams, Albert	6-3/229	2	Texas-El Paso	0/0
DEFENSIVE BACKS				
Allen, Patrick (CB)	5-10/182	6	Utah State	15/13
Bell, Leonard (S)	5-11/201	1	Indiana	0/0
Brown, Steve (CB)	5-11/192	7	Oregon	14/14
Bryant, Domingo (S)	6-4/178	3	Texas A&M	14/0
Clinton, Charles (CB)	5-8/170	1	San Jose State	1R
Dishman, Cris (CB)	6-0/180	2	Purdue	15/2
Donaldson, Jeff (S)	6-0/190	6	Colorado	16/16
Eaton, Tracey (S)	6-1/190	1	Portland State	1/0
Johnson, Kenny (S)	5-10/175	10	Mississippi State	13/0
Johnson, Richard (CB)	6-1/190	5	Wisconsin	16/3
Jones, Quintin (CB)	5-11/193	2	Pittsburgh	4/0
King, David (CB)	5-8/176	2	Auburn	*0/0
Mays, Alvoid (CB)	5-10/217	D8	West Virginia	—
McDowell, Bubba (S)	6-1/195	D3	Miami (Fla.)	—
Orlando, Bo (CB)	5-10/176	D6	West Virginia	—
SPECIALISTS				
Cimadevilla, George (P)	5-10/184	1	East Tennessee State	0/0
Montgomery, Greg (P)	6-3/213	2	Michigan State	16/0
Zendejas, Tony (K)	5-8/165	5	Nevada-Reno	16/0
OTHER FREE AGENTS IN CAMP				
Steve Avery, RB; Billy Bell, CB; Warren Bone, DE; Turk Boyd, CB; John Brantley, LB; Daryl Ilikainen, G; Wesley Keck, FB; Charles McCree, CB; Bernard McCullough, CB; Erik Norgard, G; Charles Perry, RB; Tollie Royal, LB; Bobby Sign, G; William Spears, DE; John Vitale, OG/C; Terry White, S.				

\*Not with Houston in 1988.

IR—Injured reserve.

Key to abbreviations on page 160.

## COACHES

**Head coach**—Jerry Glanville.  
**Assistant coaches**—Kevin Gilbride (quarterbacks). Kim Helton (offensive line). Frank Novak (running backs). Floyd Reese (linebackers). Nick Saban (defensive backs). Ray Sherman (receivers). Doug Shively (defensive line). Richard Smith (special teams/tight ends). Steve Watterson (strength/rehabilitation).

## RECORDS/RANKINGS

**1988 regular-season record:** 10-6 (T2nd in AFC Central); 3-3 in division; 7-5 in conference; 7-1 at home; 3-5 on road.

**1988 playoff record:** Defeated Cleveland, 24-23, in AFC wild-card game; lost to Buffalo, 17-10, in AFC semifinals.

**1988 team rankings:** total offense, 6th in AFC; 14th in NFL; total defense, 4th/8th; rushing offense, T2nd/T4th; rushing defense, 1st/4th; passing offense, 10th/22nd; passing defense, 8th/13th; scoring offense, 2nd/2nd; scoring defense, 11th/22nd; takeaways, 1st/3rd; giveaways, T11th/T19th; turnover differential, 3rd/6th; sacks, T3rd/T9th; sacks allowed, 3rd/T3rd.

**Glanville's regular-season record:** 24-25 in 4 seasons with Oilers.

**Glanville's postseason record:** 2-2 in playoffs with Oilers.

**Team record last five years:** 32-47 (.405, ranks 22nd in league in that span).

## 1989 SCHEDULE

Sept. 10	at Minnesota
Sept. 17	at San Diego
Sept. 24	Buffalo
Oct. 1	Miami
Oct. 8	at New England
Oct. 15	at Chicago
Oct. 22	Pittsburgh
Oct. 29	at Cleveland
Nov. 5	Detroit
Nov. 13	Cincinnati (Mon.)
Nov. 19	Los Angeles Raiders
Nov. 26	at Kansas City
Dec. 3	at Pittsburgh
Dec. 10	Tampa Bay
Dec. 17	at Cincinnati
Dec. 23	Cleveland (Sat.)

## 1988 RESULTS

Sept. 4	at Indianapolis (OT)	17-14
Sept. 11	L.A. Raiders	38-35
Sept. 18	at N.Y. Jets	3-45
Sept. 25	New England	31-6
Oct. 2	at Philadelphia	23-32
Oct. 9	Kansas City	7-6
Oct. 16	at Pittsburgh	34-14
Oct. 23	at Cincinnati	21-44
Oct. 30	Washington	41-17
Nov. 7	Cleveland	24-17
Nov. 13	at Seattle	24-27
Nov. 20	Phoenix	38-20
Nov. 24	at Dallas	25-17
Dec. 4	Pittsburgh	34-37
Dec. 11	Cincinnati	41-6
Dec. 18	at Cleveland	23-28

## 1988 LEADERS

**Scoring (kicking):** Tony Zendejas, 114 pts. (48/50 PATs, 22/34 FGs).

**Scoring (touchdowns):** Mike Rozier, 66 pts. (10 rushing, 1 receiving).

**Passing:** Warren Moon, 2,327 yds. (294 att., 160 comp., 54.4%, 17 TDs, 8 int.).

**Rushing:** Mike Rozier, 1,002 yds. (4.0 avg., 10 TDs).

**Receptions:** Drew Hill, 72 (1,141 yds., 15.8 avg., 10 TDs).

**Interceptions:** Jeff Donaldson, 4 (29 yds., 0 TDs).

**Tackles:** John Grimsley, 111 (66 solo, 45 assisted).

**Sacks:** Ray Childress,  $8\frac{1}{2}$  (73 yds.); William Fuller,  $8\frac{1}{2}$  (59 yds.).

**Punting:** Greg Montgomery, 38.8 avg. (65 punts, 2,523 yds., 0 blocked).

**Punt returns:** Kenny Johnson, 5.7 avg. (30 att., 170 yds., 0 TDs).

**Kickoff returns:** Leonard Harris, 19.9 avg. (34 att., 678 yds., 0 TDs).



# Steelers play catch-up in tough AFC Central

By STEVE HUBBARD  
Pittsburgh Press

**W**hile the three other teams in the AFC Central were qualifying for the 1988 National Football League playoffs, the Pittsburgh Steelers were making a run for the league's No. 1 draft position, a distinction that goes annually to the team with the worst record.

But, alas, the Steelers couldn't pull it off. They somehow muscled up and won three of their final four games and settled for the seventh draft pick. Their late surge did little to obscure the sad truth: The Steelers, who are 26-37 over the last four seasons and managed only one victory against a winning team in 1988, are falling farther and farther behind their AFC Central competitors. The talent gap is undeniable.

Steelers President Dan Rooney began addressing the problem during the off-season. He started by waiving veteran running backs Earnest Jackson and Frank Pollard. He allowed future Hall of Fame center Mike Webster to sign with the Kansas City Chiefs and he fired four assistant coaches. A fifth coach, defensive coordinator Tony Dungy, chose to resign rather than accept a reduced role.

Rooney also made it perfectly clear that he intends to stick by Coach Chuck Noll, the architect of Pittsburgh's four Super Bowl winners of the 1970s. And he promoted scout Tom Donahoe to the newly created position of pro personnel director, saying the Steelers would be more active in trading and signing free agents.

The Steelers are not hopeless. Top draft pick Tim Worley, a running back out of Georgia with plenty of potential, should blend nicely into Pittsburgh's backfield with maturing youngsters Bubby Brister (quarterback) and Merril Hoge (fullback).

## AT A GLANCE

**Strengths:** Louis Lipps and Gary Anderson are the only Pro Bowlers left on the team. The running game with Merril Hoge and No. 1 draft pick Tim Worley should be excellent. Anderson and punter Harry Newsome are solid. Bubby Brister can be a fine quarterback if he continues to develop.

**Weaknesses:** The defensive line and pass rush remain huge question marks. It's essential for ends Keith Willis and Aaron Jones to bounce back. Someone must emerge to replace Mike Merriweather at outside linebacker.

**Key to success:** Brister must come through and the pass rush must improve.

**Sure sign of trouble:** If Brister or Lipps is injured, the Steelers will be lucky to win four games.

**That's a fact:** The Steelers had one sack in their final four 1988 games—when Mark Malone tripped over his own lineman's feet.

**The head coach says:** "We better be (better). I can't take another season like that."



*Cornerback Rod Woodson looks like a future All-Pro.*

Tom Ricketts, another first-rounder out of Pittsburgh, should get immediate exposure at offensive tackle.

## COACHING

Noll is still a fine coach. He is criticized for being too set in his ways, but he did allow offensive coordinator Tom Moore to open up the offense and throw in a few gadgets late last year, and the less-predictable offense was more successful.

Noll's biggest problem is trying to run the overall show. He has stubbornly refused to make trades and pursue free agents. The Steelers now say that policy is under revision. They backed that up by signing eight unprotected free agents.

Rod Rust, a well-respected defensive coordinator formerly with the New England Patriots and Kansas City Chiefs, takes over a Steelers unit that finished last in the league in sacks, total defense and points allowed and next to last in pass defense.

Rust preaches a conservative bend-but-don't-break approach, a departure from the complicated multiple-defense system that often confused Pittsburgh's young players.

## OFFENSE

**QUARTERBACKS**—Brister finished 23rd in the league's passer ratings, but his strong arm, quick feet and infectious leadership impressed the Steelers and other teams around the league. He could ma-

ture into one of the league's best.

The Steelers' passing offense improved from last in 1987 to 21st last year as Brister threw for 2,634 yards, the most for a Steeler quarterback since Terry Bradshaw threw for 2,887 in 1981. He did that despite missing three games.

Backup Todd Blackledge does not have a strong arm but is competent.

**RUNNING BACKS**—Hoge did not become a regular until the ninth game of the 1988 season, but he has all the makings of a 1,000-yard rusher who can catch 50 passes out of the backfield. He is not particularly fast, but at 6-foot-2 and 226 pounds he is tough to bring down.

Worley, who is built similarly to Hoge, is much faster and should give the Steelers the breakaway back they have lacked for years. He probably will play at halfback, although the Steelers might also give him time at fullback, the most important backfield position in their offense.

The other halfbacks, Warren Williams and Rodney Carter, are not very fast but have a knack for the big play. Carter is a superb third-down receiver who usually manages to get open. Ray Wallace, an unprotected free agent from Houston, should be the backup fullback.

The addition of Worley and the maturation of Hoge should make this a major team strength.

**RECEIVERS**—After two years of injury problems, Louis Lipps returned to top form last season. He fought off constant double teams and caught 50 passes for a 19.5-yard average.

But he can't do it alone. Charles Lockett, Troy Johnson and Weegie Thompson all lined up opposite Lipps last season and none was consistent. The trio combined to catch only 48 passes while dropping numerous others.

The Steelers hope third-round draft pick Derek Hill (Arizona) can provide another deep threat and relieve some of the pressure on Lipps. Unprotected free agents Tracy Martin and Jason Johnson could win jobs.

Preston Gothard, Mike Hinnant and free agent Mike Mularkey are undistinguished tight ends.

**LINEMEN**—Webster's departure leaves a gaping hole in the middle. Noll, however, really likes 1988 second-round draft pick Dermontti Dawson, a great athlete who has not played much center and has no experience calling out blocking schemes at the line, at which Webster was unsurpassed.

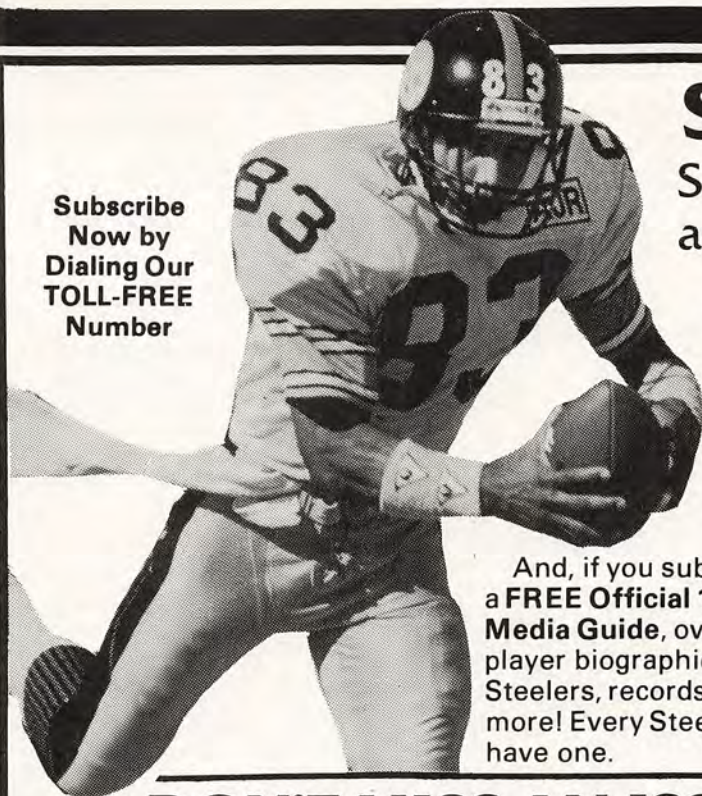
Ricketts figures to be an instant starter at left tackle, replacing Craig Wolfley, who will return to guard. The Steelers have quality and quantity at guard with Wolfley, John Rienstra, Terry Long and Brian Blankenship. Chuck Lanza and John Jackson are probable backups.

## DEFENSE

**LINEMEN**—A huge weakness last year, this unit should be much improved in 1989. Left defensive end Keith Willis returns



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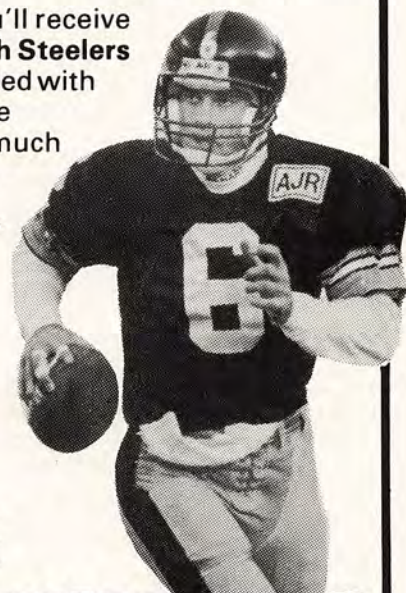


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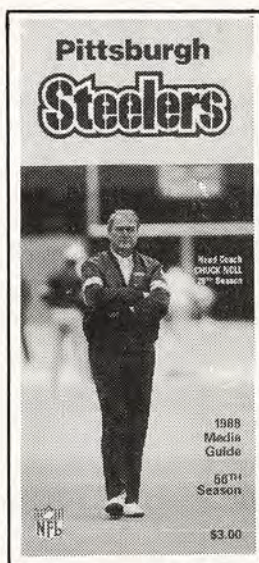
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after missing the 1988 season because of neck surgery. Willis recorded 40½ sacks in his first six pro seasons and should fill a major Steeler void.

Pittsburgh's 1988 No. 1 pick, Aaron Jones, was moved three times last season and looked confused. He probably will be positioned at right end this year, and the Steelers predict big things.

If anything happens to Willis or Jones, the defense could be in trouble. Backups Tim Johnson, Keith Gary and Jerry Reese are borderline performers.

Nose tackle Gerald Williams struggled in his first season as a starter and his backups are weak. Twelfth-round draft pick Carlton Haselrig (Pittsburgh-Johnstown), a six-time NCAA heavyweight wrestling champion, is an intriguing prospect. He never played college football.

**LINEBACKERS**—Inside men David Little and Hardy Nickerson are good, but not great. Left outside linebacker Bryan Hinkle is very good, but he's coming off two injury-riddled seasons.

Right outside linebacker is a major problem. Mike Merriweather was a three-time Pro Bowler and the Steelers' top pass rusher, but he sat out the 1988 season in a contract dispute and was traded to the Minnesota Vikings for the No. 1 pick that turned out to be Ricketts. Greg Lloyd, Darin Jordan, Gregg Carr and fourth-rounder Jerrol Williams (Purdue) will try to fill his shoes. They can't.

**DEFENSIVE BACKS**—Cornerback Rod Woodson looks like a future All-Pro. Dwayne Woodruff is 32 years old but still is competent on the other corner. Backup Delton Hall was excellent as a rookie in 1987, but struggled through a 1988 campaign in which he tried to play with a broken wrist. Hall needs work on his technique, but he's a big hitter who is effective in bump-and-run coverage.

Free safety Thomas Everett is very good when healthy, but he is so small (5-9, 179 pounds) and such a big hitter that he often gets hurt.

Cornell Gowdy tried to play with a broken thumb and was inconsistent in his first season as a replacement for retired Pro Bowl strong safety Donnie Shell. He will be challenged by second-round pick Carnell Lake, a UCLA linebacker who has enough speed for the conversion.

Fifth-rounder David Arnold (Michigan) and seventh-rounder David Johnson (Kentucky) will challenge Larry Griffin and Greg Lee for their backup jobs.

## SPECIAL TEAMS

Gary Anderson is the third-most accurate field-goal kicker in NFL history (77.8 percent) and his kickoffs consistently travel inside the opponents' 5-yard line.

Punter Harry Newsome led the league with a 45.4-yard average, but faulty protection resulted in six of his kicks being blocked. New special teams coach George Stewart will try to correct that flaw.

Woodson and Dwight Stone both returned kickoffs 92 yards for touchdowns, and Lipps is an explosive punt returner if the Steelers want to risk injury to their best receiver. ■

# STEELERS DATA

## 1989 ROSTER

QUARTERBACKS	Ht./Wt.	NFL Exp.	College	1988 Games GP/GS
Blackledge, Todd	6-3/227	7	Penn State	3/3
Brister, Bubby	6-3/205	4	Northeast Louisiana	13/13
RUNNING BACKS				
Carter, Rodney	6-0/216	3	Purdue	14/1
Davis, Elgin	5-10/192	3	Central Florida	25/0
Hoge, Merrill	6-2/226	3	Idaho State	16/8
Stone, Dwight	6-0/188	3	Middle Tennessee St.	16/0
Wallace, Ray	6-0/230	3	Purdue	1R
Williams, Warren	6-0/202	2	Miami (Fla.)	15/8
Worley, Tim	6-2/216	D1a	Georgia	—
RECEIVERS				
Gothard, Preston (TE)	6-4/235	5	Alabama	16/15
Hill, Derek	6-1/189	D3	Arizona	—
Hinnant, Mike (TE)	6-3/258	2	Temple	16/1
Johnson, Jason	5-11/180	2	Illinois State	28/0
Johnson, Troy	6-1/185	4	Southern (La.)	14/0
Lipps, Louis	5-10/190	6	Southern Mississippi	16/16
Lockett, Charles	6-0/181	3	Long Beach State	16/5
Martin, Tracy	6-3/205	2	North Dakota	1R
Mularkey, Mike (TE)	6-4/240	7	Florida	26/0
Slater, Brian	6-4/199	D11	Washington	—
Stock, Mark	5-11/177	D6	Virginia Military	—
Thompson, Weegie	6-6/216	6	Florida State	16/11
OFFENSIVE LINEMEN				
Aydelette, Buddy (T)	6-4/262	3	Alabama	1R
Blankenship, Brian	6-1/275	3	Nebraska	13/12
Dawson, Dermontti	6-2/271	2	Kentucky	8/5
Ilkin, Tunch (T)	6-3/266	10	Indiana State	16/16
Jackson, John (T)	6-6/282	2	Eastern Kentucky	16/0
Lanza, Chuck (C)	6-2/263	2	Notre Dame	16/0
Long, Terry (G)	5-11/275	6	East Carolina	12/11
Ricketts, Tom (T)	6-5/295	D1b	Pittsburgh	—
Rienstra, John (G)	6-5/268	4	Temple	5/4
Wolff, Craig	6-1/269	10	Syracuse	16/16
DEFENSIVE LINEMEN				
Asbeck, Chris (NT)	6-3/275	D8	Cincinnati	—
Freeman, Lorenzo	6-5/298	3	Pittsburgh	13/2
Gary, Keith (E)	6-3/268	7	Oklahoma	15/9
Haselrig, Carlton (NT)	6-1/273	D12	Pittsburgh-Johnstown	—
Jenkins, A. J. (E)	6-2/237	D9	Fullerton State	—
Johnson, Tim	6-3/261	3	Penn State	15/12
Jones, Aaron	6-5/257	2	Eastern Kentucky	15/12
Putzier, Rollin (T)	6-4/281	2	Oregon	5/0
Reese, Jerry (E)	6-2/267	2	Kentucky	15/0
Williams, Gerald	6-3/262	4	Auburn	16/16
Willis, Keith (E)	6-1/263	7	Northeastern	1R
LINEBACKERS				
Carr, Gregg	6-2/222	5	Auburn	13/5
Hinkle, Bryan	6-2/222	8	Oregon	13/13
Jordan, Darin	6-1/235	2	Northeastern	15/2
Little, David	6-1/230	9	Florida	16/14
Lloyd, Greg	6-2/224	2	Fort Valley (Ga.) State	9/4
Nickerson, Hardy	6-2/229	3	California	15/10
Olsavsky, Jerry	6-1/217	D10	Pittsburgh	—
Smith, Vinson	6-2/230	2	East Carolina	23/0
Stedman, Troy	6-3/243	2	Washburn (Kan.)	25/0
Stowe, Tyrone	6-1/236	3	Rutgers	10/4
Williams, Jerrol	6-5/235	D4	Purdue	—
DEFENSIVE BACKS				
Arnold, David (S)	6-3/194	D5	Michigan	—
Everett, Thomas (S)	5-9/179	3	Baylor	14/12
Gowdy, Cornell (S)	6-1/202	4	Morgan State	16/14
Griffin, Larry	6-0/200	4	North Carolina	15/3
Hall, Delton	6-1/205	3	Clemson	14/4
Johnson, David (CB)	6-0/190	D7	Kentucky	—
Lake, Carnell (S)	6-1/204	D2	UCLA	—
Lee, Greg (CB)	6-1/207	2	Arkansas State	16/0
Richard, Gary	5-10/176	2	Pittsburgh	210/0
Woodruff, Dwayne (CB)	6-0/198	10	Louisville	14/13
Woodson, Rod (CB)	6-0/199	3	Purdue	16/16
SPECIALISTS				
Anderson, Gary (K)	5-11/175	8	Syracuse	16/0
Newsome, Harry (P)	6-0/188	5	Wake Forest	16/0
OTHER FREE AGENTS IN CAMP				
Owen Bartruff, S; Lester Brinkley, DE; Cammie Collins, LB; Gene Cullinane, G; Charles Fryar, CB; Scott Galt, DB; Fred Highsmith, RB; Alvin Johnson, WR; Tommy Johnson, DE; Robert Kovach, OG; John O'Neill, OT; Terry O'Shea, TE; Nico Perkins, DB; Thane Ritchie, TE; Tracy Simien, LB; John Stroia, OL; Rick Strom, QB; Fine Unga, RB; Steve Vandegrift, DT; Eric Wilkerson, RB.				

\*Not with Pittsburgh in 1988.  
IR—Injured reserve.  
Key to abbreviations on page 160.

## COACHES

**Head coach**—Chuck Noll.  
**Assistant coaches**—  
Ron Blackledge (offensive line).  
Dave Brazil (linebackers).  
John Fox (defensive backs).  
Joe Greene (defensive line).  
Dick Hoak (offensive backfield).  
Jon Kolb (conditioning and training).  
Tom Moore (offensive coordinator).  
Dwain Painter (receivers).  
Rod Rust (defensive coordinator).  
George Stewart (special teams).

## RECORDS/RANKINGS

**1988 regular-season record:** 5-11 (4th in AFC Central); 1-5 in division; 4-8 in conference; 4-4 at home; 1-7 on road.  
**1988 playoff record:** None.  
**1988 team rankings:** total offense, 7th in AFC/15th in NFL; total defense, 14th/28th; rushing offense, 4th/6th; rushing defense, 4th/14th; passing offense, 9th/21st; passing defense, 14th/27th; scoring offense, 6th/13th; scoring defense, 14th/28th; takeaways, 8th/16th; giveaways, 14th/24th; turnover differential, T13th/T22nd; sacks, 14th/28th; sacks allowed, T11th/T17th.  
**Noll's regular-season record:** 168-125-1 in 20 seasons with Steelers.  
**Noll's postseason record:** 15-7 in playoffs with Steelers (4-0 in Super Bowls).  
**Team record last five years:** 35-44 (.443, ranks 18th in league in that span).

## 1989 SCHEDULE

Sept. 10—Cleveland  
Sept. 17—at Cincinnati  
Sept. 24—Minnesota  
Oct. 1—at Detroit  
Oct. 8—Cincinnati  
Oct. 15—at Cleveland  
Oct. 22—at Houston  
Oct. 29—Kansas City  
Nov. 5—at Denver  
Nov. 12—Chicago  
Nov. 19—San Diego  
Nov. 26—at Miami  
Dec. 3—Houston  
Dec. 10—at New York Jets  
Dec. 17—New England  
Dec. 24—at Tampa Bay

## 1988 RESULTS

Sept. 4—Dallas 24-21  
Sept. 11—at Washington 29-30  
Sept. 18—Cincinnati 12-17  
Sept. 25—at Buffalo 28-36  
Oct. 2—Cleveland 9-23  
Oct. 9—at Phoenix 14-31  
Oct. 16—Houston 14-34  
Oct. 23—Denver 39-21  
Oct. 30—at N.Y. Jets 20-24  
Nov. 6—at Cincinnati 7-42  
Nov. 13—Philadelphia 26-27  
Nov. 20—at Cleveland 7-27  
Nov. 27—Kansas City 16-10  
Dec. 4—at Houston 37-34  
Dec. 11—at San Diego 14-20  
Dec. 18—Miami 40-24

## 1988 LEADERS

**Scoring (kicking):** Gary Anderson, 118 pts. (34/35 PATs, 28/36 FGs).  
**Scoring (touchdowns):** Bubby Brister, 36 pts. (6 rushing); Merrill Hoge, 36 pts. (3 rushing, 3 receiving); Louis Lipps, 36 pts. (1 rushing, 5 receiving).  
**Passing:** Bubby Brister, 2,634 yds. (370 att., 175 comp., 47.3%, 11 TDs, 14 int.).  
**Rushing:** Merrill Hoge, 705 yds. (4.1 avg., 3 TDs).  
**Receptions:** Louis Lipps, 50 (97.3 yds., 19.5 avg., 5 TDs); Merrill Hoge, 50 (487 yds., 9.7 avg., 3 TDs).  
**Interceptions:** Dwayne Woodruff, 4 (109 yds., 1 TD); Rod Woodson, 4 (98 yds., 0 TDs).  
**Tackles:** David Little, 107 (83 solo, 24 assisted).  
**Sacks:** Tim Johnson, 4 (31 yds.).  
**Punting:** Harry Newsome, 45.4 avg. (65 punts, 2,950 yds., 6 blocked).  
**Punt returns:** Rod Woodson, 8.5 avg. (33 att., 281 yds., 0 TDs).  
**Kickoff returns:** Rod Woodson, 23.0 avg. (37 att., 850 yds., 1 TD).



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# CAN MOUSE HELP RESTORE THE

## *The Lions have committed to Davis' run-and-shoot*

By TOM KOWALSKI  
Oakland Press

**F**rom its bloodied trenches to its battle-weary field generals, the National Football League is war. From training camps where men are housed in barracks-like quarters to sudden-death playoffs where only one can survive, victory in the NFL cannot be won without pain, without sacrifice.

This is no place for a couple of guys named Mouse and June. But Mouse and June have been through trials before. And they are convinced that before this one is over, the NFL will bow to them. The Mouse has waited a lifetime to prove it.

The Detroit Lions, who have not won a playoff game since the Eisenhower Administration, are giving the Mouse the opportunity he never thought he'd get. The Lions are 24-54-1 over the last five seasons and fielded the league's worst-ranking offense last year. They need a miracle.

No, says Darrel (Mouse) Davis, the club's new offensive assistant. They just need me and my offense. It's called the run-and-shoot, but with minor variations it will be christened into the NFL as the "silver stretch."

"We have to open up the offense," Lions Coach Wayne Fontes said. "We have to use the entire field. When you stretch the field and the defenders, it opens everything up and gives you more air to run through. That's the kind of offense we need."

And, oh, what an offense. With four receivers, a single running back and no tight end, Davis' run-and-shoot, or stretch, can outstrip the wind. The first weapon is speed, and the Mouse doesn't care what kind of package it comes in. If a receiver motors over 40 yards in less than 4.5 seconds, it doesn't matter if he's 6-foot-1 or 5-foot-9. Burn, baby, burn.

If it works, the stretch will do as advertised. The four receivers line up in a two-slot formation, with the two outside receivers doing the stretching. These two, generally the team's fastest players, burn a path deep upfield with an occasional "out" route just to keep defenses guessing. Because of their quick-strike capability, they become the defenders' first priority.

*Mouse Davis is not your run-of-the-mill NFL fraternity brother.*





# ROAR?

That leaves plenty of operating room for the two slotbacks, the most agile receivers, who perform a variety of curls, outs and drags, but still can break deep in a hurry. Like all routes in the offense, theirs are based—and altered—on defensive coverages.

The Lions have added elasticity to the stretch by drafting Oklahoma State running back Barry Sanders, the 1988 Heisman Trophy winner, and fleet wide receiver John Ford, Virginia's all-time leading receiver. With Sanders' 4.39 speed, he'll also go deep instead of running dink routes. And he'll carry the ball.

"If (defenses) stretch and spread out with our receivers, he will gain over 1,000 yards in this offense," Fontes said. "There will be so many areas for him to run in."

The Lions' biggest prize in the 1989 draft may have come in the sixth round, where they landed Southern Cal quarterback Rodney Peete. Quarterback is the most important position in the offense. It requires a sharp arm and a sharper mind, what with the system based on reading and reacting to coverages. The quarterback doesn't have to be a sprinter, however, because most passes are thrown from behind guard or tackle.

Under the Mouse's direction, the system obviously works:

- In Davis' six seasons as coach at Portland State, the Vikings led all schools within their division in total offense and passing each year. The offense scored an average of 37.8 points per game over that span, and in 1980 set a single-game Division I-AA scoring record in wiping out Delaware State, 105-0. Two weeks earlier, Portland State had scored 93 points against Cal Poly Pomona.

- In the Canadian Football League, directing the run-and-shoot as an assistant with the Toronto Argonauts in 1982, Davis helped turn around a team that had finished 2-14 in 1981 behind the CFL's worst-ranking passing game. The Argos went 9-6-1 in '82 with the league's No. 2 aerial attack, averaging 315 passing yards per game.

- Davis moved on to the United States Football League in 1984, serving as offensive coordinator for the Houston Gamblers. With quarterback Jim Kelly at the controls, the run-and-shoot amassed 5,793 passing yards in 18 games (Miami holds the NFL record with 5,018 yards in 16 games in 1984) and averaged 34.3 points. The following season, Davis was named coach of the Denver Gold. With the likes of Vince Evans and Bob Gagliano at quarterback, the Gold finished 11-7 with the USFL's No. 2 rated offense.

"This situation is no different than the others," said June Jones, Davis' longtime

disciple and the Lions' new quarterbacks and receivers coach. "Mouse took a high school team that hadn't won a game and won the state championship (at Hillsboro, Ore., in 1973). He did the same thing with Portland State, with Toronto and with the expansion Gamblers. . . ."

Fontes couldn't have found two men more innovative than Davis or Jones. Yet despite Davis' success with the run-and-shoot, he has never been courted by any other NFL team.

"He's not your run-of-the-mill NFL fraternity brother," said Phoenix Cardinals quarterback Neil Lomax, who passed for a standing NCAA-record 13,220 yards as the triggerman of the run-and-shoot at Portland State from 1977 through 1980.

"At the USFL level, with all the juice we had against (former) NFL coordinators, I thought I'd have a shot," Davis said. "Most coaches look at (the run-and-shoot) as a nonconventional, somewhat flaky, school yard approach. Coaches won't change rapidly and they'll only change what they're familiar with. No one's familiar with this."

Both Fontes and General Manager Russ Thomas assured Davis the Lions were committed to the stretch offense. That's how they lured Jones away from Houston, where he had overseen the emergence of Warren Moon while employed as the Oilers' quarterbacks coach the last two seasons.

"It was very important to get June because he worked with the four wide receivers in the NFL," Fontes said. "Plus, it's important to have the two of them working together."

Interestingly, Fontes said he would wait until training camp had begun to appoint an offensive coordinator. It will be a shocker, though, if Davis (initially classified as a quarterbacks and receivers coach) doesn't end up calling the plays.

Jones, a reserve with the Atlanta Falcons from 1977 through 1981, was the first quarterback to turn Davis' run-and-shoot into a pass-and-score offense at Portland State. In 1976, his second season under Davis, he passed for 3,518 yards, a single-season Division II record that stood until 1985. Only the Mouse, whom he also coached with at Toronto, Houston (Gamblers) and Denver, could have pulled him away from the Oilers.

"We've waited 10 to 12 years," Jones said, "10 to 12 years of frustration for this opportunity and it may not come again."

Davis has earned a reputation during his travels through three collegiate levels and three pro leagues—the CFL, USFL and Arena Football League. He can be tough to work with.

"I think that's true," he said. "I'm bull-

headed and strong-willed. I'm sold on what we do. It's important that what you do, you do it well."

It's Davis' way or the highway, even if it has to be Davis who gets behind the wheel. When California didn't commit to the run-and-shoot after he departed Portland State to become a Golden Bears assistant in 1981, Davis left in midseason.

There were similar doubts in Houston when he first ran the run-and-shoot by Gamblers Coach Jack Pardee. "He was an NFL guy," Davis said. "He wanted a tight end in the game—he didn't know why . . . but that's what he wanted. As we became more successful with the offense, he said, 'This tight end idea isn't too good.'"

Pardee was won over by the system, so much that he still uses the run-and-shoot as the coach at the University of Houston, which ranked second in the nation in 1988 with 377.5 passing yards per game.

Davis isn't protective about his offense, which he says isn't completely his to begin with.

"I think we've got an excellent offense," he said, "and I'd like to give credit to everyone. I've stolen from everyone. Tiger Ellison (a former high school coach in Middletown, Ohio) wrote a book called the 'Run and Shoot Offense' (in the early 1960s). What we do isn't what Tiger did, but I stole from him. He called me one time when I was in Denver and told me: 'Keep winning. Every time you win, I sell more books. Now it's in a second printing.'"

Davis helped get the Arena Football League on its feet in 1987, serving as the league's director of operations. The indoor game's offense was based on a scaled-down version of the run-and-shoot, which Davis taught to coaches and players at a preseason camp in Wheaton, Ill.

Tim Marcum, a former defensive coordinator of the USFL's San Antonio Gunslingers, coached in the indoor league at Denver in 1987 and Detroit in 1988. He said he isn't surprised the NFL shunned Davis and his offense for so long.

"If it's not their idea, people will be negative," Marcum said. "Mouse and I have become good friends. We're as close as two men can be without exchanging jewelry. But I'm a big backer of the run-and-shoot because I've had to defend it. It's very difficult to stop."

Davis and Arena League founder Jim Foster didn't see eye to eye on how the indoor game should be played, and it led to conflicts.

"Foster invented the thing, but we developed the rules," Davis said. "Every time I made changes, it upset people. At

*Continued*



# ROAR?

the beginning, our quarterbacks were getting killed, just killed. We had to change the rules."

Once the Arena League's first season concluded, Davis swore off indoor football. That vow made, he was approached about coaching the St. Louis Lightning in the fledgling World Indoor Football League.

"I didn't want to do it, but they persisted and I said all right," Davis said. "We had a pretty good little team. We would've smoked a few folks, but some of the owners didn't come up with the money and we never started."

Delving into theories, could the run-and-shoot be Mouse Davis' way of putting the little man back into football? After all,

Mouse, who stands 5-6 in two pairs of wool socks, was a scrappy athlete as a youngster, a quarterback, running back and defensive back at Oregon College of Education (now Western Oregon State) from 1951 through 1954. Although his height blocked him from the big show, it blessed him with a conspicuous nickname.

"When I was younger, my father used to call me 'burrow mouse,'" Davis said. "I don't know why. I was playing second base on the varsity in my (high school) freshman year and my brother Don was the catcher. One day, he threw the ball to me and I dropped it. He said, 'Nice hands, mouse.' That's where it started."

But could the run-and-shoot, with its small and speedy receivers, be the revenge of Mouse Davis?

"Some of that might be true," Davis said. "But I also think because I was an ex-quarterback, I love to throw the ball.

"I've been told that I don't like big guys. That's not true. I like big, *fast* guys. And I like small, fast guys. I'm prejudiced toward speed, I'll admit to that."

Speaking of prejudice, Davis knows he's flying into the face of it in the NFL, where offenses are run with tight ends and championships are won with the running game. "Until somebody wins it all without a tight end on the field," Jones said, "everyone will be skeptical."

Such as New York Giants General Manager George Young. "The wind blows in the second half of the season and it gets cold and passing circuses just aren't as good," Young said. "It still comes down to players, not systems."

Backers of the run-and-shoot concede that personnel will determine how well—not if—the offense will work.

"We had good receivers at Portland State and Jim Kelly had good receivers in



*Davis' system has been successful at every level it's been tested — high school, college, CFL and USFL.*

*For instance, his 1985 Denver Gold team of the USFL finished 11-7 with the league's No. 2 -rated offense.*



Houston," Lomax said. "It'll work with personnel. It'll be a mistake to give him just two or three years. It takes a long time to get personnel in this league.

"I'm a Mouse Davis fanatic. If he can't do it, it can't be done."

"The Number 1 way to stop it," Davis said, "is to have far superior people, but

we'll still win a lot of the battles. If the personnel is even, we'll win 75 percent. If we're better than who we're playing, we'll never lose." ■

# Understanding the 'Stretch'

By TOM KOWALSKI  
Oakland Press

**W**elcome to the stretch offense, a kissin' cousin of the run-and-shoot, but definitely the black sheep of the National Football League family. The tried-and-true methods of NFL offenses are mocked by many of Mouse Davis' ideas—his four receivers, the lack of a tight end, the single running back and this hand-raising business by the receivers.

"Our receivers have the option of extending their routes or 'sitting down' (actually, cutting them short), depending on how the coverage reacts," said Davis, the Detroit Lions' new offensive guru.

"Against a zone defense, the receiver raises his hand when he's going to sit down. The defenders don't see it because they're reading the quarterback's eyes in a zone coverage."

Most of the time, however, the quarterback and receiver must read the defense in sync, not only coverages, but an individual defender's technique. While that places additional pressure on the offense, it doesn't compare with what opposing defenses have to contend with. Davis will line up four burners in the double-slot formation, then send a slotback into motion.

"It stabilizes the defense," Davis said. "It gives you a much better idea of what they're playing because they have to account for everyone. Also, it limits what they can do with the blitz because they can come from only so many places. Otherwise, they'll leave somebody running free. You could get away with that in high school, but not the NFL."

New Lions assistant June Jones, Houston's quarterbacks coach the previous two seasons, incorporated parts of the run-and-shoot into the Oilers' offense. When the Oilers were in the one-back offense, he said, they surrendered one sack for every 30 passes. In the two-back set, they allowed a sack every 12 passes.

But the underlying key to the success of the stretch is speed.

"The outside receivers don't need a lot of quickness, but they need speed," Davis said. "The slot guys can be slower, but not slow. They have to possess great quickness because they'll have guys playing in their face."

"You're totally overmatched with their speed," said Tim Marcum, who coached

against the offense in the USFL. "If you put your speed guys in, they run on you. I'm a big backer of the run-and-shoot or the stretch because I've had to defend it."

In the run-and-shoot, rushing the ball is based on the pass. Because of the constant pass threat, linebackers drop back into coverage quickly to minimize the passing lanes. With the linebackers falling back and defensive backs chasing the four wide receivers, play-action passes become running plays because the running back has room to operate. Especially when you have an explosive and dazzling runner like Barry Sanders, Detroit's first-round 1989 draft pick.

"If they're going to worry about the run, those passing lanes become much bigger," Davis said. "With four great cornerbacks, you can stop our pass. But you can't stop our offense. Besides, who has four great corners?"

One misconception about the run-and-shoot is the mobility of the quarterback. "If the quarterback has the arm and the smarts," Davis explained, "the legs don't matter. We can take care of that with technique."

"If you look at the films, the rollouts were minimal," Marcum said. "Most of the passes are thrown from behind the guard."

The Lions' sixth-round pick, quarterback Rodney Peete, is hardly a statue. "He threw well, he moved well and I really liked his judgment," Fontes said after watching Peete in a rookie camp following the draft. "It's too early to tell if he can run this offense, but he looks good."

Peete will join three veteran quarterbacks—Chuck Long, Eric Hipple and Rusty Hilger—on the Detroit roster. The Lions also have been working out several speedy free-agent receivers, many of whom were successful in the USFL.

Since he first began experimenting with the run-and-shoot as a high school coach in the early 1960s, Davis has altered the offense.

"It's evolved," he said. "There have been a lot of factors and I've stolen from everyone. Canada had an influence because of all the movement that's allowed (in the Canadian Football League)."

And Davis will try anything.

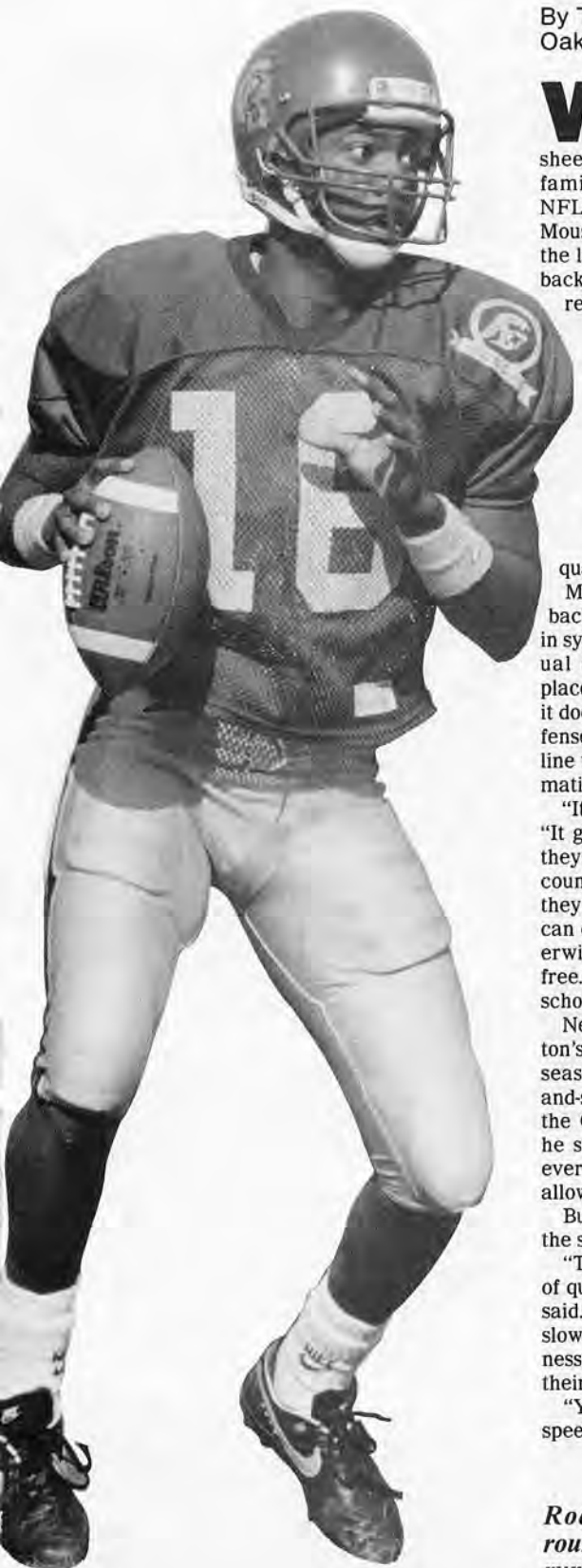
"In college, everyone ran in motion," he said. "We even put the quarterback in motion. You know why? Because everybody jumps offside. But that's illegal in the NFL."

So Davis will look for another way.

"It's said football is won in the trenches, but we go against the grain," Jones said. "We win by executing, but we've chosen to play the game a different way."

And how. ■

*Rodney Peete, Detroit's sixth-round pick, appears well suited to run the stretch offense.*





# GREAT

## Peterson and

By RICK GOSSELIN  
Kansas City Star and Times

**L**ess than five minutes into the press conference announcing his hiring as the new coach of the Kansas City Chiefs last January, Marty Schottenheimer cast doubt on his own credibility.

"Our goal will never change," Schottenheimer said with surprising conviction. "Our goal for 1989 is to become champions of the National Football League."

The Chiefs? NFL champs? In one season? C'mon, Marty. Be serious. The Chiefs haven't won their division, much less a league championship, since 1971, and they've been to the playoffs only once in the last 17 years.

Not only that, but with back-to-back 11-loss seasons under Frank Gansz, the Chiefs have been the worst team in the American Football Conference the last two years. It took Vince Lombardi three years to resurrect the Green Bay Packers from similar depths, and Lombardi was arguably the league's best coach ever. One year? Schottenheimer would have to be more than a coach. He'd have to be a miracle worker.

But miracles, Schottenheimer believes, are products of the mind. To win—whether it be a game, a division, a conference or a league—a team must believe it can win. And that belief has been missing at Arrowhead Stadium for years.

"There's no question that the first task at hand for me is to raise the level of expectations on this football team," Schottenheimer said. "I'm a very strong believer in the principle that what goes into your mind is the product that comes out. That's why it's so important to talk about winning, think about winning, and why it's so important to set your goals extremely high."

"Great expectations precede anything you ever achieve. My coaching philosophy is quite simple. The best way to establish a position of excellence in the National Football League is first to expect it. I've always felt the worst thing you can ever do is arbitrarily set a goal that might be well beneath what you are capable of achieving."

Achievement was the watchword of the Chiefs in the 1960s when they were the model American Football League franchise. One of the league's eight original clubs, the Dallas Texans moved to Kansas City after three seasons and brought with them a legacy of winning. The Texans/Chiefs won more games than any other



*The track records of Carl Peterson (top) and Marty Schottenheimer are as laden with success as the Chiefs' record is with failure.*



# EXPECTATIONS

## *Schottenheimer are setting their goals high in K.C.*

AFL franchise, and the Chiefs appeared in two of the four Super Bowls before the NFL and AFL merged in 1970. They lost to Green Bay in the inaugural Super Bowl, but their convincing victory over Minnesota in Super Bowl IV ushered in a new era of pro football.

Since then it has been all downhill for the Chiefs, whose demise was triggered by the club's failure at the draft table. The premier players from the Chiefs' AFL years gradually retired or moved on—Mike Garrett, Fred Arbanas, E.J. Holub and Jerry Mays in 1970, Johnny Robinson in 1971, Jim Tyrer in 1973, Bobby Bell and Curley Culp in 1974, Len Dawson, Otis Taylor and Buck Buchanan in 1975—and they failed to replace them with players of comparable ability.

From 1970-75, the Chiefs wasted first- and second-round draft picks on underachievers Sid Smith, Clyde Werner, Scott Lewis, Jeff Kinney, Gary Butler, Woody Green and Elmore Stephens. Those woe-filled drafts caught up with Hank Stram, the architect of the Super Bowl era, in 1974 when the Chiefs sank to 5-9—Stram's first losing season in 11 years. Jack Steadman, who was then the general manager, used that as his excuse to fire the only coach the franchise had ever known.

Stram's dismissal removed the only football man from the club's braintrust. In 1976, the Steadman-Jim Schaaf regime clicked into place when Steadman was elevated to president and Schaaf to general manager.

At that point, the demise of the Chiefs accelerated from a jog to a sprint. In the 13 years (1976-88) that Steadman and Schaaf handled the club's football and administrative operations, the Chiefs had just a .390 winning percentage (76-119-1) and only two winning seasons. They finished last in the AFC West seven times. The one blip on the screen was the club's 10-6 finish in 1986—the only playoff team Kansas City has fielded since 1971, when the Chiefs fell to Miami in overtime on Christmas Day.

But the Chiefs were not a franchise to wallow in prosperity. After they lost the AFC wild-card game that year to the New York Jets, Schaaf fired John Mackovic as coach. He was replaced by Gansz, a special-teams whiz who had never been a head coach before and promptly led the Chiefs to an 8-22-1 record over the next two years.

The club's ever-patient owner, Lamar Hunt, finally ran out of patience last December. Steadman, Hunt's longtime friend

and confidant, was bumped upstairs from president to chairman of the board, and Schaaf was fired. Hunt then turned over the wreckage of his franchise to Carl Peterson, the former boy wonder of the United States Football League.

"There are no certainties in the highly competitive world of pro football," Hunt said at the press conference naming Peterson as president, general manager and chief operating officer. "But I feel we have the best man available to lead the Chiefs in a positive direction. Carl has been associated with winners on all levels. It appears to me he has made a habit of being a winner and being associated with winners."

The first winner with whom Peterson associated himself in Kansas City was Schottenheimer, who was suddenly and surprisingly available. He resigned as coach of the Cleveland Browns in late December after a disagreement with Owner Art Modell about the makeup of his coaching staff, then was courted by the San Diego Chargers in January before agreeing to join Peterson in Kansas City.

"Marty's coaching philosophy, work ethic, dedication and commitment to winning are extremely compatible to mine," Peterson said. "It was extremely important to me to find a coach that I knew I could work with. It didn't take me long to feel very, very comfortable with Marty."

The records of Peterson and Schottenheimer are as laden with success as the Chiefs' record is with failure.

In his four full seasons as coach of the Browns, Schottenheimer captured three AFC Central titles and four playoff berths. He was one of only three NFL coaches, along with Chicago's Mike Ditka and San Francisco's Bill Walsh, to field a playoff team each of the last four years. His teams came within one win of the Super Bowl in both 1986 and 1987.

Peterson built championship football teams in Philadelphia in two different leagues. He was the director of player personnel for the NFL Eagles from 1978-81, a four-year period in which Philadelphia went to the playoffs four times and the Super Bowl once. Then he built the USFL Stars from scratch into the premier team in the brief history of spring football (1983-85). The Stars, who were based in Philadelphia for two years before moving to Baltimore in 1985, appeared in all three USFL championship games, winning the final two.

"It's been my experience that winning is a habit, just as the opposite can become

a habit," Peterson said. "Winning is not a sometime thing; it's an all-the-time thing. Once the habit is established, it becomes expected and it's difficult to change."

That's the challenge confronting Peterson and Schottenheimer—changing an established losing habit. Even though he turned the Browns around in his first full season as coach, taking them from 5-11 in 1984 to 8-8 and an AFC Central championship in 1985, Schottenheimer does not profess to have any magical, mystical or miracle formulas.

"We have no genius coaches coming into this operation," Schottenheimer said. "I guarantee you there are a lot of coaches in this business smarter than Marty Schottenheimer. But this is not a business of X's and O's. This is a business of people. I believe the chemistry of people is what winning is all about. We have to get everybody on the same page."

"Our ambition is to win the National Football League championship, and to win it in 1989. Obviously, there is no way any single individual can do that. The philosophy is to assemble as many people that have exactly the same goal and commitment to achieving that goal as the organization has. Then if we just go about our business each and every day working with one thing in mind—winning a championship—we'll ultimately reach that point."

Schottenheimer is not exactly bereft of talent. He has five starting defensive players who have been voted to recent Pro Bowls in nose tackle Bill Maas, linebacker Dino Hackett and defensive backs Deron Cherry, Albert Lewis and Lloyd Burruss. He has a pair of talented young running backs in Christian Okoye and Paul Palmer, plus a kicker who ranks with the best in NFL history in Nick Lowery. The Chiefs lost seven games last season by a touchdown or less, and they did defeat the AFC champion (Cincinnati) and another playoff team (Seattle). So, they appear to be more competitive than their 4-11-1 record would indicate.

"There are probably four or five teams in this league that are better than the rest," Schottenheimer said. "There are probably three or four teams that are going to struggle to beat many folks. But you take the other 19 or 20 teams and they are very, very close. Parity is the objective of the National Football League. The difference between those 19 or 20 teams is so very close. If you can organize and

*Continued*



# EXPECTATIONS

make your goals clear, get everybody on the same page, and strive to achieve them, you can be at the top of that group of 19 or 20 teams.

"I may be an English major, but simple mathematics says if you're in the top 10, you're in the tournament. And if you're in the tournament, anything can happen."

The wild card in Schottenheimer's equation is Peterson, who built his reputation in football as a personnel wizard. He can spot talent and assemble it. Quickly.

Peterson proved that with the Eagles when he drafted Jerry Robinson, Petey Perot, Roynell Young and Dennis Harrison, traded for Claude Humphrey and Leroy Harris and signed free agents Herman Edwards, John Spagnola, Wally Henry and Woody Peoples. He proved it again with the Stars when he drafted and signed Kelvin Bryant, Irv Eatman, Bart Oates, Antonio Gibson and Sean Landeta, signed free agents Chuck Fusina, Chuck Commiskey, Pete Kugler and Sam Mills

and acquired the rights to sign Garcia Lane. With Peterson calling the personnel shots, the Eagles and Stars went to the playoffs seven times in seven seasons and reached the league championship game four times.

With the implementation last winter of "Plan B" free agency, the NFL gave Peterson the opportunity for quick fixes on a team with some glaring needs. The Chiefs were among the most active teams in the free-agency sweepstakes, bringing 63 players in for visits and signing 17 of them. Topping the list of signees was Ron Jaworski, who has been a quarterback in both the Pro Bowl and Super Bowl. He gives the young Kansas City offense a leader. For the club's talented but under-achieving offensive line, Peterson came up with a Hall of Fame role model in former Pittsburgh center Mike Webster. He has gone to more Pro Bowls than any center in NFL history. In need of a blocking back for Palmer and Okoye, Peterson signed Tommie Agee away from Seattle. He was Bo Jackson's blocking back at Auburn. For the club's woefully weak special

teams, Peterson signed punter Max Runager from Cleveland and kick returner Lew Barnes from Atlanta.

"I looked at Plan B as a window of opportunity," Peterson said. "We've had, in essence, a second draft—but with more proven football players. I felt there were enough quality players out there who could help upgrade our football team. I'm pleased with the guys we signed, but I can't evaluate them right now. Wait until December when we see how many games the Chiefs have won and how much those players contributed."

Peterson and Schottenheimer both expect to evaluate a successful football team come December. Their track records show they wouldn't have it any other way.

"I think there's talent on this football team," Schottenheimer said. "I think there's an environment that's conducive to being successful. The tradition of the past, the championships they've won, the great players they've had like Bobby Bell and Buck Buchanan—it's got to be the expressed intention of this football team to recapture that." ■



*Schottenheimer doesn't profess to have any miracle cures for changing the Chiefs' established losing habit.*

*He believes the chemistry of people is what winning is all about, getting "everybody on the same page."*



# UNIT RATINGS

## *Bengals' powerful offensive line is simply amazing*

By JACK BRENNAN  
Cincinnati Post

**S**impler is better for the Cincinnati Bengals' offensive line, which last year cleared the way for the most rushing yards and most total offense in the National Football League.

"We don't do a lot of pulling guards and tricky plays and trapping anymore," offensive line coach Jim McNally said. "The Bengals' style now is the big back, hammering straight ahead inside the tackles."

"I love it, and every one of my guys loves it. It's our idea of the way football should be played."

The Bengals return for 1989 without No. 1 right tackle Joe Walter, one of the league's best pass blockers. He is out until at least late in the season after suffering a major knee injury last December.

But Brian Blados, first in line to claim Walter's spot, is probably better than Walter at blocking for the run. The Bengals' other starters include perennial All-Pro tackle Anthony Munoz, Pro Bowl guard Max Montoya, guard Bruce Reimers and center Bruce Kozerski. Tight end Rodney Holman, a 1988 Pro Bowl player, also is a devastating blocker.

"Last season's was the best line I've ever had," said McNally, who is entering his 10th year on the Cincinnati staff. "No question. By far."

"For a while I tried to downplay it. I never liked to pass out too many compliments because I was afraid we'd get our butts kicked the next week and people would say, 'Well, Jim, what about that great line of yours now?' But it was so obvious last year, I have to be honest about it and say it was our best."

And McNally, 45, is rapidly becoming one of the league's most widely respected assistant coaches. Bengals Coach Sam Wyche has given McNally the credit for a decision to simplify the running game during 1988 training camp.

"Jim pretty much cut in half the number of plays we had to learn," Montoya said, "and that made a big difference in the way we prepared. We didn't have to do as much thinking before a play because there wasn't as much to remember. And because we had repeated all the plays more often, we had the execution down pat."

Basically, the Bengals just block straight ahead, each man pushing a defender as far back from the line of scrimmage as possible. Cincinnati's backs line up deep and search for seams as they approach the line. There often are several from which to choose.



*The Bengals' starters include perennial All-Pro tackle Anthony Munoz.*

"It was a beautiful thing, watching our line work from the press box last season," tight ends coach Bill Johnson said. "From way up there above the field, you could see one whole side of the defense just

being bent back, depending on which side we ran to."

McNally, who never stops tinkering with the fine points of line technique, also switched the Bengals' emphasis away from exploding forward at the snap.

"With our backs lining up deeper, we're not in a real hurry to get into our blocks," he said. "We're not concerned with firing out so hard that we might hit our man and fall down. We're putting a lot of emphasis on the way we finish a block, and that's different from what a lot of teams are doing now."

The Bengals' commitment to the straight-ahead power running game was underscored by the selection of 350-pound Arkansas guard Freddie Childress in the second round of the 1989 draft.

"I've nicknamed him 'The Road Grader,'" McNally said. "He's a wide-bodied guy who's going to pancake a defender if the guy stands up even a little bit. We hope our runners can just run right up his back." ■

## OFFENSIVE LINES

### THE BEST

The NFL's top offensive line in 1988 belonged to **PHOENIX**, and it should get even better with the addition of guard Joe Wolf. Luis Sharpe ably mans the left tackle spot, with underrated Derek Kennard at center. Only a notch below is **CINCINNATI**, led by perennial All-Pro left tackle Anthony Munoz. This fine run- and pass-blocking unit will be tested this year because of the loss of right tackle Joe Walter to a knee injury and able backups David Douglas and Dave Smith to free agency. **HOUSTON'S** line simply punishes people. Line coach Kim Helton has brought this group to maturity the last two seasons. Three first-round picks are featured—guards Mike Munchak and Bruce Matthews and tackle Dean Steinkuhler—and the 1989 draft produced another potential killer in No. 1 pick David Williams. As usual, the **LOS ANGELES RAMS** have one of the league's best lines. Center Doug Smith remains the anchor, surrounded by tackles Irv Pankey and Jackie Slater and guards Tom Newberry and Duval Love. Backup Robert Cox keeps the pressure on the starters.

### A STEP BEHIND

Injuries and a slow start kept **MINNESOTA'S** line from playing to its potential until the last half of the '88 season. Tackle Gary Zimmerman was a holdout, guard Dave Huffman spent most of the year on injured reserve and center Kirk Lowdermilk also missed time. On the bright side, rookie guard Randall McDaniel was a revelation and great things are expected this year from guard Todd Kalis. **MIAMI** is tough to figure. Is the line that good at pass blocking, or is it enhanced by quarterback Dan Marino's lightning release? Probably both. But this line must improve its run blocking.

### THE WORST

**CLEVELAND** fans watched in horror as a succession of Browns quarterbacks crumpled with injuries last year. Where was their blocking? The heart was taken out of the line before the season when center Mike Baab was traded. His replacement, Gregg Rakoczy, had trouble remembering the plays. There still isn't a top-flight blocker around. The **LOS ANGELES RAIDERS'** recent problems can be traced directly to the offensive line. Gone are the days of simply writing out the lineup with Gene Upshaw, Art Shell and Dave Dalby. Injuries and inexperience have produced numerous lineup combinations, thus prohibiting any form of continuity. The draft-day acquisition of guard Steve Wisniewski is an improvement, but not the answer.



# UNIT RATINGS

## Cunningham is the Eagles' do-it-all QB

By PHIL ANASTASIA  
Camden Courier-Post

**P**hiladelphia Eagles quarterback Randall Cunningham passed for 3,808 yards and 24 touchdowns last season. He ran for 624 yards and six touchdowns. But statistics only hint at Cunningham's importance to the defending NFC East champions.

The fifth-year quarterback has been the reason for the Eagles' rise to Super Bowl contender. "No player means more to his team than Randall means to us," Eagles Coach Buddy Ryan said.

Cunningham is the main man in the Eagles' clearly defined quarterbacking situation.

Matt Cavanaugh is the ideal No. 2 man. A seasoned veteran, the 32-year-old Cavanaugh is confident in his ability, comfortable in his role. He is regarded as a leader in the locker room.

Don McPherson is a third-stringer with long-range potential. He didn't play as a rookie last season, but he's smart, instinctive and athletic. The Eagles believe that with experience he will learn to compensate for mediocre arm strength.

"He has those qualities that you can't put your finger on—charisma, leadership, the ability to get the job done," Eagles assistant head coach Ted Plumb said.

Cunningham has the same qualities, plus ideal size, a powerful arm and perhaps the position's fleetest feet.

Of course, the 6-foot-4, 203-pound Cunningham had much the same package when he entered the league as a second-round draft choice from Nevada-Las Vegas in 1985. But his insight into the game and poise under pressure have enabled him to unleash his vast talent.

"Randall is a great pupil," Eagles quarterbacks coach Doug Scovil said. "He wants to learn. He wants to make himself a great quarterback."

Last year, his second as a full-time starter, Cunningham set team single-season records for passing yards, attempts (560) and completions (301). His six rushing TDs tied for the team lead, and his 624 yards rushing made it two straight years he has paced the Eagles in that category. Cunningham is the first quarterback to lead his team in rushing in back-to-back seasons since Green Bay's Tobin Rote in 1951-52.

"He gives us three big first downs a game running," Ryan said. "The defense has no way to stop him. He does it on his own."

Said Washington's former general manager, Bobby Beathard: "He just scares us.



*Randall Cunningham finally has unleashed his vast talent on the league.*

He kills us running and passing."

Cunningham's scrambling ability opens up the Eagles' passing game in many ways. When he escapes the pocket, an Eagles receiver sometimes will break off his pattern and work downfield for a long pass. Defenses sometimes will assign a linebacker to "spy" Cunningham, which takes a player out of coverage and helps the Eagles' short passing game.

"I try to get everybody involved in the offense," said Cunningham, the Most Valu-

able Player of the 1989 Pro Bowl. "I don't want to just pass to one guy or feel like I have to run for us to win. I want to be able to spread things around."

Cunningham probably is at his best in the two-minute drill. He has engineered long drives for winning scores in the last two minutes of play four times in the last two years.

"We know if it comes down to the end and we put the ball in Randall's hands, he's going to get it done," Ryan said. ■

## QUARTERBACKS

### THE BEST

**SAN FRANCISCO** has Joe Montana, the only current quarterback who has won three Super Bowls. Even if something happens to Montana, the 49ers still have Steve Young in reserve. **CINCINNATI** had the league's Most Valuable Player last year in Boomer Esiason, but his shoulder problems cloud the picture. Without Esiason, the Bengals are just ordinary. Like Cincinnati, **HOUSTON** has a superb leader (Warren Moon) but little depth. **PHILADELPHIA** looks strong with the versatile Randall Cunningham backed up by Matt Cavanaugh and Don McPherson. **MIAMI** and **DENVER** are in the same boat. Both clubs need some semblance of a running game to complement their passers' superb skills. The Dolphins' Dan Marino and the Broncos' John Elway are coming off subpar years (for them), but the lack of a balanced offense was to blame in both cases.

### A STEP BEHIND

Keep an eye on **ATLANTA** and **PITTSBURGH**. The Falcons' Chris Miller just needs some offensive weapons to work with, while the Steelers' Bobby Brister has a knack for winning that transcends his natural ability.

### THE WORST

When you can't come close to naming your starting quarterback entering training camp, you're hurting. Rookie Rodney Peete has as good a chance of starting for **DETROIT** as anybody. **SAN DIEGO** also is in dire straits because of Mark Malone's inconsistency and Mark Vlasic's knee injury. Billy Joe Tolliver and Terrence Jones came in the draft. **GREEN BAY** has a huge question mark, while **TAMPA BAY** hopes Vinny Testaverde, who is colorblind, will do better with the Bucs in white uniforms.



# Seattle's Warner and Williams are foes' nightmare

By JOHN CLAYTON  
Tacoma Morning News Tribune

**D**enver Broncos Coach Dan Reeves' restless nights begin whenever he reviews tapes of Seattle Seahawks running backs Curt Warner and John L. Williams. The Seahawks' dream backfield is Reeves' personal nightmare.

"Every time I face these two guys, I lose a lot of sleep preparing for them," Reeves said. "The problem with facing two backs is that they can come at you at any place at any time."

That was what Seahawks Coach Chuck Knox had in mind in 1986 when he drafted the 226-pound Williams, a fullback, to complement Warner, his franchise running back. With Warner and Williams, the National Football League was about to get a full course of the Ground Chuck offense.

The NFL already was familiar with Warner, who had sandwiched a pair of 1,000-yard-plus rushing seasons around a 1984 campaign in which he missed 15 games following major knee reconstruction surgery. A steady diet of Warner was enough for most teams, but the addition of Williams has left opponents feeling stuffed for the last three seasons.

Especially last year. Warner carried the load in 1986 and 1987, totaling 2,466 yards rushing to Williams' 1,038. But in 1988, the work was shared more evenly. Warner again led the way with 1,025 yards rushing, but Williams was right behind with 877 yards rushing and 58 receptions, a team record for a running back. Were it not for a cracked rib that hindered him for a month, Williams' numbers would have been even better. Knox and his teammates viewed Williams' exclusion from the Pro Bowl as a major injustice.

Williams was impressive even with the cracked rib. Wearing a generous supply of bandages, he bulled through the Atlanta Falcons' defense for three touchdowns. Such performances promoted Williams to equal status in the backfield with Warner.

"When we had one real top back, Curt Warner, we were basically an I-formation team," former offensive coordinator Steve Moore, now retired, said last season. "Now, we're a combination. It gives us a little more variety in our backfield because we do like to give the ball to John L. a little more than we did in the past."

Though Warner's '88 season wasn't as physically challenging as his year of rehabilitation from knee surgery, it was mentally difficult. Coming off two ankle-spr operations before the season, he started slowly and became frustrated, once even rearranging part of the locker room in a fit of anger after a Seattle loss. He also had trouble sharing the limelight as Williams' role in the running game increased. For a while he questioned his ability and pondered retirement.

"It's been a weird season," Warner said



*Curt Warner shifted into overdrive at the end of last season.*

late in the year. "To a degree it started to wear on me."

It wasn't until the final month of the season that Warner kicked his legs into overdrive. He rushed for 130 yards against the Los Angeles Raiders in week 13 and 126 yards against Denver two weeks later. Williams challenged those totals with 105- and 109-yard efforts, making Seattle the only NFL team with a pair of 100-yard rushers in the same game in 1988.

And Reeves' greatest fear was realized.

Warner and Williams had finally become a dual weapon.

"When I first came here, I didn't expect to come in and just take over," Williams said. "I knew it would take a little time."

The time has come that Warner and Williams can think seriously about becoming only the fourth backfield in NFL history to boast a pair of 1,000-yard rushers in the same season. Such a thought should keep Reeves awake another night or two this fall. ■

## RUNNING BACKS

### THE BEST

**SAN FRANCISCO** has balance with Roger Craig's running and catching and Tom Rathman's blocking. This unit could get even better with the addition of third-round pick Keith Henderson. For **CINCINNATI** to remain among the best, James Brooks must remain healthy, Ickey Woods must prove his rookie year was no fluke and second-round pick Eric Ball must provide the depth that Stanley Wilson did. **HOUSTON** has loads of depth, but the Oilers must sign Mike Rozier and keep Lorenzo White happy. **SEATTLE** has a solid 1-2 punch with Curt Warner and John L. Williams. The **NEW YORK JETS** still scare people with the halfback duo of Freeman McNeil and Johnny Hector and fullback Roger Vick.

### A STEP BEHIND

**INDIANAPOLIS** has Eric Dickerson, but the Colts' running game won't be great until they start giving Albert Bentley half a chance. The **LOS ANGELES RAMS** are deep but need to put the ball in the hands of Gaston Green and Robert Delpino. **PITTSBURGH** is the sleeper with underrated Merrill Hoge and Warren Williams. The addition of No. 1 pick Tim Worley should move the Steelers up a notch. The **LOS ANGELES RAIDERS** get Bo Jackson for only part of the season, but Marcus Allen is still dangerous. They should use Steve Smith more. **NEW ENGLAND** also is strong.

### THE WORST

Three teams with vast problems strengthened themselves in the draft. **MIAMI** added Sammie Smith, but until the Dolphins commit to their running game a bit more, they won't have one. Without much behind Keith Byars and Anthony Toney, **PHILADELPHIA** added Robert Drummond, while **DETROIT** selected Heisman Trophy winner Barry Sanders to key the ground portion of its new run-and-shoot offense. **TAMPA BAY** still has serious problems. Like Miami, **DENVER** needs to examine its offensive philosophy if the Broncos expect to run the ball.



# UNIT RATINGS

## *Givins and Hill are livin' hell on defenders*

By JOHN McCLAIN  
Houston Chronicle

**P**ut them in street clothes and you'll find high school players more physically imposing. But put them on a football field and the two 5-foot-9 wide receivers will scare the bejabbers out of the best defensive backs.

In each of the last two seasons, Drew Hill and Ernest Givins of the Houston Oilers have been the National Football League's most productive pair of receivers. They combined for 1,922 yards in 1987 and 2,117 yards last season, cementing their reputation as one of the game's most exciting pass-catching tandems.

"We've got the best starting wide receivers in the league," Coach Jerry Glanville said. "I wouldn't trade my two guys for anybody. When you watch them, they always amaze you with the things they can do."

Hill and Givins, neither of whom weighs more than 175 pounds, have similar playing styles but different personalities. Hill is so low-keyed off the field that you have to check his pulse to make sure he's still breathing. Givins is more extroverted and high-strung.

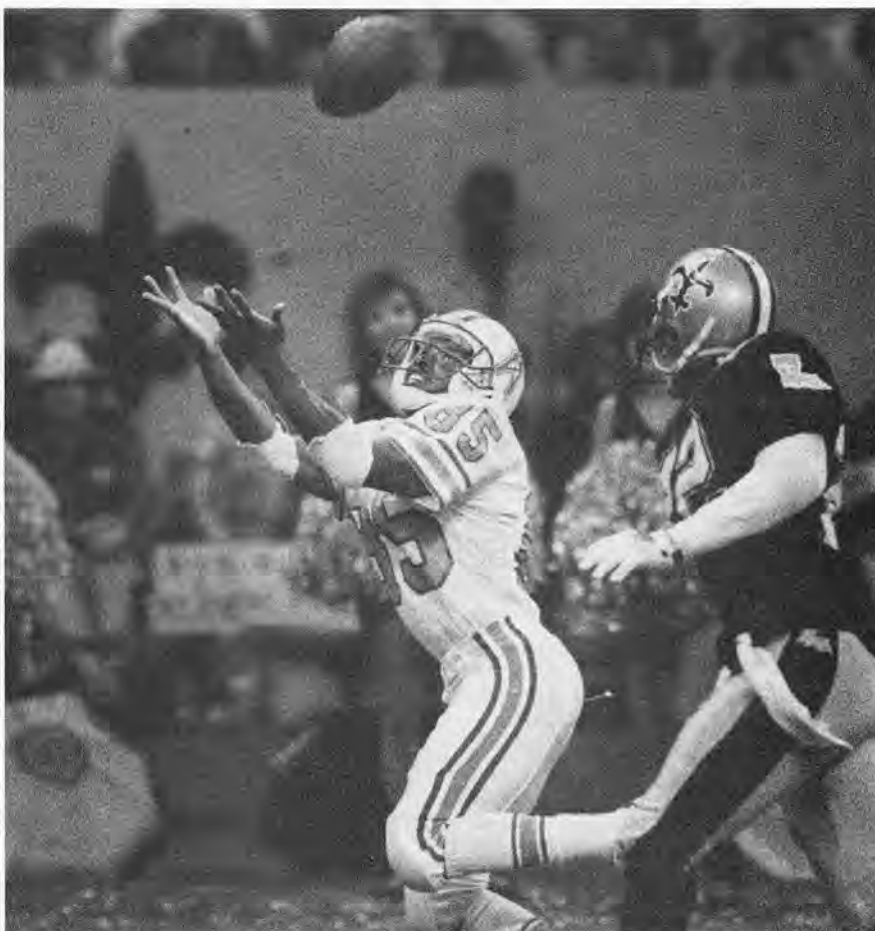
The 33-year-old Hill is coming off the best season of his 10-year career. He had a career-high 72 receptions for 1,141 yards and 10 touchdowns and was voted to his first Pro Bowl, although he had to miss the trip to Hawaii because of a neck injury suffered in the Oilers' playoff loss to Buffalo.

Hill represents the best trade former general manager Ladd Herzog made. Herzog got him from the Los Angeles Rams in 1985 for fourth- and seventh-round draft choices. In his four seasons with the Oilers, Hill has led the team in receiving each year. In fact, his 4,411 yards with Houston is second in the league to San Francisco's Jerry Rice over the same period.

"I like to think I'm right up there with the best receivers in the league," Hill said. "I've worked real hard to get where I am right now. I'm having such a good time, I don't plan on letting up."

At an age when most players are in the twilight of their careers, Hill remains as quick as ever. He also has become a student of the game. That combination of quickness and knowledge makes it virtually impossible for a single defender to cover him.

Givins, who will turn 25 just before the start of his fourth NFL season, is even quicker than Hill. Fearless and acrobatic, he is known for his leaping and diving



*Drew Hill's combination of quickness and knowledge makes it virtually impossible for a single defender to cover him.*

catches. But he is at his best after the catch, when he puts his speed, quickness and instincts to good use.

Givins had 60 catches for 976 yards and five touchdowns last season. Falling just short of 1,000 yards, a plateau he reached as a rookie in 1986, will serve as motiva-

tion for 1989.

"I want to be known as one of the best receivers in the league," Givins said. "I've learned a lot from Drew, and I love watching him play. I don't think there's a limit to what we can accomplish if we stay healthy." ■

## RECEIVERS

### THE BEST

**HOUSTON** has the league's top pair of wideouts in Drew Hill and Ernest Givins, plus depth with Haywood Jeffires and Curtis Duncan. **WASHINGTON** is right up there with Art Monk, Ricky Sanders and Gary Clark, not to mention running back Kelvin Bryant, another good receiver. **CLEVELAND** could suffer after trading Earnest Byner, but the Browns drafted promising replacements in Eric Metcalf and Lawyer Tillman. The rapid development of **PHILADELPHIA** tight end Keith Jackson makes the Eagles dangerous. And don't forget **CINCINNATI'S** solid corps of wideouts and underrated tight end Rodney Holman.

### A STEP BEHIND

With John Elway pulling the trigger, **DENVER'S** receivers should be among the best. Last season, however, they played below their potential. **CHICAGO** is a sleeper. The Bears are ready to make a move with Wendell Davis and Dennis McKinnon, plus the pass-catching ability of running back Neal Anderson. If Mark Duper can rebound, **MIAMI** will be back.

### THE WORST

They have the names, but the **LOS ANGELES RAIDERS'** receivers don't measure up. Tim Brown is a keeper, but the rest are washed up or injury-prone. The draft could help **ATLANTA**, which selected Shawn Collins, and **PITTSBURGH**, which added Derek Hill. **GREEN BAY** got a little help last season from Sterling Sharpe, but overall the Packers' unit is poor.



# Millard, Doleman power Vikings' defensive line

By ROBERT SANSEVERE  
Minneapolis Star Tribune

**M**innesota Vikings defensive tackle Keith Millard once told a policeman, "My arms are more powerful than your gun."

There are offensive guards around the National Football League who would tend to agree. If you want to keep Millard off your quarterback, you'd better double-team him. Or shoot him. Double-teaming works. Sometimes, anyway.

"Millard is the ideal 4-3 tackle," Vikings defensive coordinator Floyd Peters said. "He's a barroom brawler."

Yes, indeed. Millard once was brought up on charges of head butting a guy in a bar. He beat the rap. And he continues to beat up on guards, running backs and quarterbacks.

"He's outstanding against the run," Peters said.

He's not bad against the pass, either. Millard had eight sacks in 1988 and started in the Pro Bowl. He was one of nine Vikings on the National Football Conference's Pro Bowl team.

One of the others was end Chris Doleman, Millard's next-door neighbor on the right side of the Vikings' defensive line. Doleman also had eight sacks in 1988.

"Doleman's special," Peters said. "He ran a 4.57 (40-yard dash) in shorts. To be 6-5, 265, and run that fast is awesome."

Linebacker Scott Studwell, cornerback Carl Lee and safety Joey Browner also made the Pro Bowl squad. Their jobs were made easier by the likes of Millard, Doleman and, let's not forget, nose tackle Henry Thomas.

Thomas falls into the unsung-hero category. Even though the Vikings play a 4-3 alignment, they line up Thomas as a nose tackle. Peters thinks Thomas is a premier run defender who is coming of age as a pass rusher. He had six sacks last year, impressive for a nose man.

Minnesota's defensive line was largely responsible for the team's No. 1 NFL ranking in total defense last year. Lee will tell you that he wouldn't have been one of the league leaders with eight interceptions had it not been for the pressure applied by the defensive line. That line accounted for 32½ of the team's 37 sacks, but Millard, Doleman, Thomas and whomever the Vikings lined up at left end forced quarterbacks to hurry their throws even more often.

"The pass rush separates the big boys in this league," Peters said. "You've got to force the guy to throw off target."

That should be accomplished more easily than last year with the addition of Mike Merriweather, a three-time Pro Bowl outside linebacker acquired from Pittsburgh on draft day. Doleman is anxious to play with Merriweather, saying his sack total should climb because offenses won't be able to keep everybody away from the quarterback.



*Vikings defensive tackle Keith Millard plays like a barroom brawler.*

For Millard and Doleman, 1989 marks their third full season playing side by side. When Peters arrived in 1986, he switched Millard from end and Doleman from outside linebacker. Both resisted at first, but the switch grew on them as they started racking up tackles and quarterbacks.

Thomas, a natural nose tackle who claims he wouldn't be happy anywhere else, joined them in 1987. They form three-fourths of what may be the league's

top defensive line. All they need is a left end. That position could be set for at least a year or two if 10-year veteran Doug Martin returns from major knee surgery. If not, others will try, including former Cardinal Curtis Greer and eighth-round draft pick Alex Stewart.

"You never get four perfect defensive linemen," Peters said. "But you want to get four who work well together."

He's awfully close. ■

## DEFENSIVE LINES

### THE BEST

**CHICAGO** has an outstanding line. The Bears are strong up the middle with tackles Steve McMichael and Dan Hampton, and they'll be even better at end with the return of Richard Dent and the addition of first-round draft pick Trace Armstrong. Teams find it virtually impossible to prepare for **SAN FRANCISCO**, which uses multiple combinations and keeps its players fresh by substituting liberally. The best of the bunch is nose tackle Michael Carter. The only hole in the **MINNESOTA** line is at left end, where Doug Martin's knee makes him a question mark. But tackle Keith Millard, end Chris Doleman and nose tackle Henry Thomas can dominate. **BUFFALO** is in transition, phasing out nose tackle Fred Smerlas in favor of Jeff Wright. On the ends, Bruce Smith is a force and Art Still adds experience. **PHILADELPHIA** can't be overlooked with end Reggie White and underrated tackle Mike Pitts.

### A STEP BEHIND

The defensive lines of **ATLANTA** and **TAMPA BAY** are on the rise. The Falcons feature Tony Casillas in the middle and solid Mike Gann alongside him. Greg Brown can be an effective pass rusher in certain situations. The Bucs are young and restless with Reuben Davis, Robert Goff, Curt Jarvis and Shawn Lee. **MIAMI** was starting to come on last year when end John Bosa was injured.

### THE WORST

**SEATTLE** has fallen on hard times. How far? Last season, free-agent nose tackle Ken Clarke was the Seahawks' best defender against the run. **DENVER** remains suspect, although the Broncos hope second-round pick Warren Powers can spark some improvement. **GREEN BAY** has potential if Shawn Patterson is given the chance to shine. **DETROIT** blew it by drafting end Reggie Rogers two years ago. Nose tackle Jerry Ball is the Lions' lone bright spot. A unit on the decline is **WASHINGTON'S**, although third-round pick Tracy Rucker could help. End Charles Mann was hurt last season, while ends Markus Koch and Dexter Manley are unreliable.



# UNIT RATINGS

## Double duty doesn't bother Lion linebackers

By TOM KOWALSKI  
Oakland Press

**N**one of Detroit's starting linebackers was trumpeted into the National Football League. Instead, each came in with a loud knock.

Chris Spielman didn't have the speed. Michael Cofer lacked the smarts. Dennis Gibson didn't possess the skills. George Jamison was too small.

But after one year of playing together, the linebackers' biggest weakness is the defensive line in front of them. Because the line can't rush the passer or stop the run effectively, the linebackers are forced into double duty. They love the work.

"They all have talent, desire and intensity," Coach Wayne Fontes said. "You wait on players like that. They all work extremely hard, they all want to win and they're all unselfish. If our defensive line improves, our linebackers would be able to make more plays."

With Jimmy Williams coming off a knee injury, the Lions can help correct that problem.

"Before Jimmy Williams got hurt, he was one of the best linebackers in the league," Fontes said. "When he comes back, we will have to find a place for him."

But Jamison, who replaced Williams, won't leave without a fight. Jamison, who was taken by Detroit in the 1984 United States Football League supplemental draft, made some spectacular plays to cause turnovers last year.

"George has that knack for the ball," Fontes said. "He makes things happen."

So instead of taking a linebacker out, the Lions may just put one down. Drafted as a defensive lineman in 1983, Cofer was moved to outside linebacker in 1985 when the Lions switched to a three-man line. He struggled for a while, and many believed he wouldn't be able to handle the new position. But he played it well enough last season, recording a team- and career-high 12 sacks, to earn his first Pro Bowl berth.

With Williams' return, though, he may go back on the line in third-down situations. "We can bring him from anywhere," Fontes said.

"Anywhere" just about covers the positions Gibson has played the last three years. At Iowa State, he was an outside linebacker. He was an eighth-round draft pick in 1987 and started 12 games at strongside inside linebacker, becoming the first Lions rookie ever to lead the team in tackles.

He was rewarded for his efforts by being moved last season to weakside line-



*Chris Spielman proved his detractors wrong during his rookie season.*

backer, where he made a career-high 116 tackles. The reason was Spielman.

"He came in frothing at the mouth and I said, 'You will be the strongside linebacker,'" Fontes said.

Despite his All-America credentials from Ohio State, Spielman had his detractors. In his published report last year, draft analyst Mel Kiper Jr. wrote: "(Spielman) doesn't carry the inflated rating his press clippings might indicate, but would make a solid fifth- or sixth-round selection. Could go as high as the second, making him a slight reach at that point."

Those remarks sent the Spielman intensity meter zooming off the chart.

"One of the first things he said when we drafted him (in the second round)," a Lions scout said, "was, 'Who is this Kiper guy? He doesn't know (bleep).'"

Spielman, disappointed he wasn't a first-round choice, went out and set a Lions record for total tackles (153).

But he wants more. He wants to be part of the nickel defense, too.

"During the games, he'll stand by me, tug on my sweater and say, 'I can cover that guy,'" Fontes said. "One time I pulled him on second down and he marches up to me and says, 'Did you stay up all night thinking up a defense without Spielman?'" ■

## LINEBACKERS

### THE BEST

**NEW ORLEANS** had the best set of linebackers in the league in 1988 and, with a nice balance inside and outside, should dominate again in 1989. There is no obvious standout among Rickey Jackson, Pat Swilling, Vaughan Johnson and Sam Mills. With Michael Cofer's sacks and Chris Spielman's strong inside play, **DETROIT** is on the rise. The Lions also feature underrated George Jamison and Dennis Gibson. **SAN FRANCISCO'S** Michael Walter and Riki Ellison are overachievers, and this unit could get better with the addition of No. 1 pick Keith DeLong. **GREEN BAY** is a force with Tim Harris, and the **NEW YORK JETS** feature mistake-free inside men Kyle Clifton and Troy Benson. An improving Alex Gordon and first-round pick Jeff Lageman will make the Jets better.

### A STEP BEHIND

The **LOS ANGELES RAMS'** linebacking keeps improving with Kevin Greene, Mike Wilcher, Fred Strickland and Larry Kelm. Rookies Frank Stams and Brian Smith could provide depth. **BUFFALO** is solid, although Cornelius Bennett hasn't lived up to his press clippings yet. Shane Conlan is the key. **HOUSTON, INDIANAPOLIS** and **CLEVELAND** are all close to the top group, while **TAMPA BAY** is coming on.

### THE WORST

**KANSAS CITY** had the league's most abysmal linebacking in 1988, but the drafting of Derrick Thomas and the acquisition of Mike Junkin from Cleveland could mean brighter days are ahead for the Chiefs. **WASHINGTON** is old, and Wilber Marshall was one of the worst starting linebackers in the league last season. **CINCINNATI** needs help and didn't get it from the draft. After Billy Ray Smith, **SAN DIEGO** is in trouble.



# Minnifield, Dixon will put bite back in Dogs' bark

By JEFF SCHUDEL  
Ingersoll Publications

**P**ro football's most famous Dogs, Hanford Dixon and Frank Minnifield of the Cleveland Browns, are growing long in the tooth.

Maturity and marriage to their longtime girlfriends have mellowed the pair, admitted Dixon, who will turn 31 on Christmas Day. A week later, New Year's Day baby Minnifield will turn 30.

"You get older, you get wiser," Dixon said. "You develop a lot of inner confidence."

And in their case, you play superb defense. Minnifield and Dixon have been the starting cornerbacks for the American Football Conference in the last two Pro Bowls. They combine with safeties Felix Wright and Brian Washington to give Cleveland what may be the National Football League's best secondary.

The Corner Brothers, as Minnifield and Dixon dubbed themselves in a poster popular in Cleveland two years ago, are respected for their talents but not necessarily their tactics. They are known around the league for taunting opposing receivers, threatening to take their knees out as they line up for the first play of a game and barking in their face when they drop a pass.

Minnifield has the sharper tongue of the two. He likes to bug Houston wide receiver Ernest Givins by calling him "Eric," and he has little respect for any receiver. "As soon as you say something good about one of them," he said, "they start to believe it."

Minnifield's menacing demeanor even makes it hard for him to enjoy one of the game's highest honors. "I don't like being in the Pro Bowl," he said, "because I don't like associating with the enemy."

The taunting was missing from the Cleveland defense last season. Dixon blamed former coach Marty Schottenheimer's passive defensive schemes for the Browns' diminished aggressiveness. But Dixon has news for the league's wide receivers: The Dogs will be barking again.

"Coach (Bud) Carson is going to turn our defense back into the Dogs," said Dixon, who coined that moniker for the Browns' defense. "Going into the season we're going to start intimidating people instead of people intimidating us, because at some point last season I think we were intimidated—not a lot, but a little bit. It was there."

"With the type scheme and aggressiveness Coach Carson is bringing in here, I think we'll be physical once again. Since I've been here with the Browns (1981), we haven't had a pass rush, and I've been promised a pass rush this year."

Dixon is trying to turn back the hands of time. He admits eight years in the league have slowed him down, so he prepared for his ninth by working harder than ever in the off-season. It was rare



*Cleveland's Corner Brothers, Hanford Dixon (left) and Frank Minnifield, are respected for their talents but not necessarily their tactics.*

last year when he could begin and end a game without pulling a leg muscle. He said the problem was that he was carrying seven extra pounds over his normal 195-pound playing weight.

"I'm working out hard and Minni's

working out hard," Dixon said. "This year you'll see us back in our rare form. We'll be mean cornerbacks. We're going to bark again. I don't know if there is a classy way to taunt or dog receivers, but we're going to find one." ■

## DEFENSIVE BACKFIELDS

### THE BEST

**KANSAS CITY** boasts four of the best backs in the business—free safety Deron Cherry, strong safety Lloyd Burruss and cornerbacks Albert Lewis and hard-hitting Kevin Ross. **CLEVELAND** has solid cornerbacks in Frank Minnifield and Hanford Dixon, although Dixon needs to get the killer instinct back. Brian Washington was a find at safety last season. **SAN FRANCISCO** has another solid group with cornerbacks Tim McKyer and Don Griffin and safeties Ronnie Lott and Jeff Fuller. A couple of underrated squads belong to **BUFFALO** and **CINCINNATI**. The Bills have solid corners and big-play safeties in Mark Kelso and Leonard Smith. The Bengals lack only a free safety, but the expected battle between Robert Jackson (who held out last season) and Rickey Dixon is encouraging.

### A STEP BEHIND

**CHICAGO** and the **LOS ANGELES RAMS** aren't far from the top group. The Bears are smart, and their cover game should improve with the addition of first-round pick Donnell Woolford. The Rams have weeded out the veterans, and safety play will determine how well their unit operates. **DETROIT** and **GREEN BAY** are sleepers. The Lions should benefit from the addition of cornerback Willie Tullis, while the Packers are a hard-hitting group.

### THE WORST

Safety Erik McMillan and cornerback James Hasty of the **NEW YORK JETS** won raves for their rookie play last season, but some scouts believe they were overrated. Overall, the Jets' backfield needs help. **SAN DIEGO** starts castoffs except for Gill Byrd. **PITTSBURGH** has overly aggressive players who make too many mistakes and **DENVER** and **MIAMI** need help at cornerback. The Dolphins, however, drafted a promising safety in Louis Oliver.





*Jim Thorpe was paid \$500 a week to coach the Oorang Indians as well as run the famous Lingo Airedale Kennel.*



# AIREDALES, INDIANS AND PRO FOOTBALL

## *The doggone amazing tale of the Oorang Indians*

By SHELBY STROTHER  
Detroit News

**T**he train used to stop in La Rue. Gary Cooper and Rudy Vallee and the great Al Jolson came; Jack Dempsey, Ty Cobb, Tris Speaker, the superstars of the sporting world visited regularly. This little village of 800 people in west-central Ohio used to be something.

It was the home of Jim Thorpe and the Oorang Indians. It was the home of a National Football League franchise.

The railroad tracks still make a necklace around La Rue. Children wrap homemade pies in torn pillowcases and hook them on fishing poles for the engineers. The big trains can't stop, of course, but the children know their tasty treats are worth several loud, exhilarating toots on the big train whistle.

In town, there is plenty of talk about football at Coonie's, the combination bar/restaurant next to the boarded-up dry goods store. But the talk is of Browns and Bengals, Buckeyes and Irish. They used to talk about La Rue High School, but that went the way of consolidation years ago. Once in a while an old-timer will bring up the Oorang Indians, but that usually brings nothing but blank stares. For the Oorang Indians are long gone, a part of a distant legacy. And the train simply doesn't stop in La Rue anymore.

At the closed-down shop next door, the big sign overhead is weathered and faded, the painted lettering faint and almost illegible. But the name on it, "Lingo," should be brought back to life every football season. It is a name that once upon a time was indirectly responsible for the incredible success the NFL enjoys today.

Walter Lingo was a visionary, a dreamer, a shrewd businessman. He didn't take pro football to the dogs. In fact, he did just the opposite. And if you should find one of the folks who might remember the glory days when the Oorang Indians put this sleepy little dot of middle America on the map, pull yourself up a chair. It is one heck of a tale.

Unlike the rest of his family, which was involved in the dry goods and general store business, Walter Lingo sold dogs. Not just any dog; he specialized in Airedales. Once described in *Field and Stream* magazine as "the finest utility dog in the world," the Airedale was a genetic melting pot, the result of crossbreeding otter

hounds, English sheep dogs, black and tan terriers and bulldogs in a dale located near the Aire River in England. Lingo considered the species to be something of a wonder dog, possessing special powers. And nobody sold Airedales like he did.

In 1921, Lingo, a lover of the outdoors who was fascinated with Indian lore, had an idea. Shortly before the American Professional Football Association held its league meetings, Lingo invited Jim Thorpe, the greatest athlete of all time, to come to La Rue to hunt, fish, talk—and listen to a proposition.

Lingo believed Indians and animals enjoyed some sort of supernatural relationship. He also was aware of Thorpe's reputation on several athletic fields and his stint as the APFA's first president, a brief reign that had ended earlier that year. But the main reason he wanted to talk with him was because of his heritage—five-eighths Sac and Fox Indian, the rest Irish and French. "Guess you'd call me an American Airedale," Thorpe once said.

That would have brought a smile to the lips of Lingo, whose proposal to Thorpe was this: Would he like to coach a team composed entirely of American Indians? Would he also like to run the famous Lingo Airedale Kennel, where the finest hunting dogs in the world were bred and trained by the finest trainers, genuine American Indians? And would he like to help promote both—a pro football franchise and a mail-order dog business? Thorpe said yes to all the above, including running the dog kennel.

The dogs were expensive. An untrained one went for \$100. If they were trained by Lingo's specialists—his Indians—the price could run as high as \$500 for one dog. For that matter, the special dog biscuits, developed for the Airedales and their special qualities and needs, came in big burlap sacks that cost \$10 each.

When Lingo appeared before the APFA early in 1922, he found that it would cost him the equivalent of 10 bags of dog biscuits to own an APFA franchise. One hundred dollars. Compare that with the recent sale of the Dallas Cowboys for about \$90 million.

The APFA met again in June 1922, at which time a couple of momentous events took place. Seeking a new identity after two years of operation, the league changed its name to the National Football League. And it awarded a franchise to La

Rue, O., and its ambitious dog breeder, Walter Lingo. He named his club the Oorang Indians, after his favorite Airedale, King Oorang.

Word spread quickly that one of the teams that would participate in the 1922 NFL season would be an all-Indian squad owned by a man whose financial well-spring was a puppy factory based in a village that could be found only on the most detailed maps. But a former editor of the newspaper in Marion, the county seat located 14 miles east of La Rue, took an interest in the situation. And according to NFL records, Warren G. Harding, who in 1922 was employed as the President of the United States, donated \$2,000 to Lingo and his wild scheme. One of Harding's friends, a man named Ralph Lewis, even announced that he was selling his pickle business and building a huge hotel to accommodate all the people who would flock to see the football team.

Lingo got busy, first signing Thorpe, then scouting the country for Indian football players. The 34-year-old Thorpe and Joe Guyon, like Thorpe a product of the great Carlisle Indian Industrial School teams and an eventual member of the Pro Football Hall of Fame, helped by putting out the word.

It didn't take much. Life on the reservations, where most Indians had been unceremoniously deposited, was not the greatest. The chance to play football and live elsewhere was an easy temptation.

Talk about a melting pot. Before long, members of such tribes as the Mohawk, Chippewa, Cherokee, Wyandotte, Iroquois, Pomo, Mission, Winnebago and Shawnee were playing side by side on one field of grass. The Oorang Indians' roster was filled with the likes of Ted Lone Wolf, Baptiste Thunder, Reginald Attache, Xavier Downwind, Red Fang, Peter Black Bear, Joe Little Twig, Laughing Gas and the unforgettable Long Time Sleep.

And that was how they were introduced to fans. The NFL commanded little respect in those days, and so many of the Indian players preferred to play under their colorful Indian names and live as anonymously as possible under other names. So, when the story goes that Wrinkle Meat recovered a fumble or Bear Behind threw a crucial block, it just might be the truth.

Except when it came to the team's player/coach. Thorpe's Indian name was



## OORANG INDIANS

Bright Path, a name Lingo liked, but it made economic sense to take advantage of the magical name of Jim Thorpe. So, Bright Path used his more famous moniker on and off the field.

The use of that name didn't come cheap. Thorpe was paid \$500 a week. His teammates got next to nothing. And instead of living in the converted clubhouse with the other players, Thorpe stayed at the luxurious Coons Paw Inn, a La Rue boardinghouse that only recently burned down.

La Rue, incidentally, never hosted an NFL game. One reason was that Lingo saw no advantage in having his team play at home. How was he going to sell his Airedales that way? Any of the locals who wanted one already had one. No, he would take his team on the road, to the other NFL cities. In their two seasons of existence, the Oorangs played only one of 20 league games at home, and even that one was not played in La Rue, which lacked adequate seating. It was played in Marion, where a football field was marked off at the county fairgrounds. Marion also hosted an exhibition game or two along the way, but the Oorangs spent most of their time spreading the good news about Lingo's Airedales across the NFL map.

Leon Boutwell, a quarterback for Lingo's club, said years later that everyone on the team realized the owner cared little about football. He was just trying to peddle his dogs. Consequently, "nobody

really cared, either," Boutwell said. "And it was a dandy excuse to raise hell and get away with it."

Team discipline was not the Oorangs' strongest suit. Thorpe himself was never a strong advocate of conditioning or abstinence, and he had trouble telling his players to do something he wasn't willing to do. Besides, how was someone supposed to feel a strong sense of team pride when the owner was constantly giving pregame pep talks about the time this Airedale saved a little girl from an enraged bull or that Airedale pulled an old crippled man from a burning building?

The players were not free to concentrate on football after that pep talk, either. They often ran onto the field whooping and hollering while wearing war bonnets and buckskins over their uniforms. After the first half they had to don that attire again and demonstrate tomahawk throwing, perform lasso tricks and help the owner's Airedales chase live raccoons up fake trees. Little did the players know that halftime entertainment later would become a staple of NFL games—but without the players' participation.

The grand finale of halftime was a reenactment of World War I battle scenes, with the main focus on the Airedales, now decked out in white blankets with the famous Red Cross on them. The shows usually earned the loudest applause of the day. And if there was time, tackle Long Time Sleep, also known as Nick Lassa, sometimes wrestled live bears for a few extra dollars. Or sometimes for free, de-

pending upon his mood.

In a league known for being transient and built upon shaky ground, the Oorang Indians provided a kind of whoopee-cushion comic relief. They gave the NFL the publicity spark it needed to make it through its infant years until it could mature with the arrival of Red Grange a cou-



*Long Time Sleep, also known as Nick Lassa, sometimes wrestled live bears during halftime.*



*The 1923 Oorang Indians: Top row, from left — Owner Walter Lingo, Pete Calac, Jack Thorpe, Jim Thorpe (Bright Path), Lone Wolf, Pearl Clark (Tomahawk), Big Bear. Middle row — Buffalo, Eagle*

*Feather, Leon Boutwell (Little Cyclone), Gray Horse, Little Twig, Wood Chuck. Bottom row — Wrinkle Meat, Bear Behind, Running Deer, Red Fox, Nick Lassa (Long Time Sleep).*



ple of years later. And in spite of everything, Lingo's mail-order Airedale business boomed.

Fulgencio Batista, a future president of Cuba who had never even heard of Fidel Castro at the time, ordered a dozen of Lingo's finest canines delivered to him in Cuba. Ty Cobb regularly made testimonials about his Airedale, a plucky beauty named Rusty. Harding himself declared that his gift from Lingo, the formidable Laddie Boy, was a terrific dog indeed. Lingo, who beat the public-relations drum loud and long—he even had his own magazine called Oorang Comments—was on his way to becoming a millionaire.

His football team was not so gifted or lucky, although the players did have the benefit (according to Lingo) of having one of the finest veterinarians anywhere as a team doctor.

Their first game ever was against the Dayton Triangles, who thumped the team from La Rue, 36-0. But the following week, at the Marion County Fairgrounds, the Oorang Indians beat the Columbus Panhandles, 20-6. It was the first of the franchise's three victories in nine NFL games that season.

Not everyone in La Rue was enamored with this football team. Remember, many people considered pro football only slightly more scrupulous than bank-robbing at that time. These also were Indians, and it hadn't been that long (less than 40 years) since the great Apache chieftain Geronimo had been the scourge of the country. Bigotry was as prevalent as ambivalence.

Feeling unloved, unappreciated and generally unwanted, several members of the team began ongoing bouts with the bottle and bravado. Police constantly waited at the train station for the team when it returned from a game, knowing trouble likely was afoot. A silver-plated revolver once was confiscated, and public reaction in La Rue would have been to put the National Guard on alert—if there had been a local National Guard unit in La Rue.

Another time, at the Everyman Saloon in Chicago, the bartender gave last call, explaining Illinois law demanded that all taverns close at 2 a.m. Several team members resisted, forced the bartender into a telephone booth and turned the booth upside down. Then they poured drinks until seven in the morning. Five hours later, they staggered onto a field to play the mighty Chicago Bears.

The Bears weren't worried.

"They'd give you an elbow, a knee, butt you with their heads, but they really weren't very good," former Bears tackle Ed Healey once said. "Thorpe hardly played. He was kind of old anyway. They were tough sons of guns. Just not very good. And they didn't care much, either. They did enjoy the parties after the games, though."

The novelty wore off as the losing ways continued. By the Oorangs' second season, the best thing about their games was the kicking exhibitions Thorpe used to give before the kickoff. He routinely drop-kicked 50-yard field goals and punted balls

65 yards and longer. But the games themselves often deteriorated into foregone conclusions.

Economic factors also put a damper on Lingo's sporting venture. Operating expenses soon cut into his kennel's profits, and Lingo suspended the team's activities after two seasons. A 1-10 record in 1923 marked the end of the Oorang Indians.

Several of the players headed back to the reservations. Others, including Thorpe, caught on with other teams. The Great Depression arrived a few years later and wiped out Walter Lingo's dream and fortune. Forced to sell his kennels, Lingo joined the rest of his family in the dry goods business.

Lingo's flight through the skies had

been short and glorious, a meteor shower the color of war paint. But then the skies got dark and everyone moved away. The train quit stopping at La Rue a long while back. And at Coonie's, you hardly ever hear anyone bring up the Oorang Indians anymore.

Outside of town, alongside winding Highway 37, the small sign that reads "Former Home of Jim Thorpe" is rusting and tilted. It's a tiny reminder of a time long gone. The town's brief and colorful flirtation with fame is just as vanished, tilted so much you can hardly see or remember anything.

But for a while, the old-timers will tell you, it was amazing. It was doggone amazing. ■

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# 1990 DRAFT PREVIEW

## Early departures weaken next year's senior class

By MEL KIPER JR.  
Free-lance writer

If the 1989 National Football League draft was considered the year of the junior eligible, then the 1990 version must be the year of the unknown.

When such players as Timm Rosenbach, Steve Walsh, Barry Sanders, Tim Worley and Sammie Smith decided to leave college with eligibility remaining, it not only strengthened the '89 draft, but quickly weakened the next one. It also raised some questions: Will more players leave after good junior years? And will there be another fourth-year player like Sanders who explodes on the scene, wins every award in sight and decides to move straight to the NFL?

It's impossible to say who will turn pro a year early, but Syracuse wide receiver Rob Moore, who has been compared favorably to former Orangemen star Art Monk of the Washington Redskins, is a strong possibility.

Despite the early departures of Walsh and Rosenbach, two blue-chip quarterback prospects remain: Louisiana State's Tommy Hodson and South Carolina's Todd Ellis. Both can be excellent pure passers, but they probably won't develop fully until they get some pro coaching.

The linebacking group looks to be the strength of the '90 draft, while it is expected to be a weak year for offensive linemen. The linemen are an undersized group, but that can change after a year of weight lifting.

### QUARTERBACKS

Player, School	Hgt.	Wgt.
Tommy Hodson, LSU	6-3	195
Todd Ellis, South Carolina	6-3	203
Troy Taylor, California	6-4	190
Dave Schnell, Indiana	6-2	219
Bill Musgrave, Oregon	6-3	192
Cary Conklin, Washington	6-4	215
Neil O'Donnell, Maryland	6-3	221
Mike Power, Boston College	6-2	185
John Friesz, Idaho	6-4	216
Scott Erney, Rutgers	6-1	200

**Analysis:** The top prospects, Hodson and Ellis, both struggled last season after enjoying superb sophomore campaigns. But they were operating with inexperienced supporting casts, so expect to see dramatic improvement from both players in 1989. Taylor, a tall, slender field general with outstanding raw talent, could skyrocket up the charts. Musgrave lacks Taylor's overall talent but is a precise short- to intermediate-range passer with a keen knowledge of the offense. Schnell will enter his final campaign with middle-round grades, as will Conklin, a straight drop-back passer with above-average arm strength. The sleeper of the group could be O'Donnell, a gritty competitor who al-



Louisiana State quarterback  
Tommy Hodson

ways seems to get the job done. The top underachiever of the group is Power, a gifted athlete who has yet to display his skills on the field because of inconsistent passing. Friesz has rung up some impressive numbers against Division I-AA competition, while Erney gets the maximum out of his ability, rating as your classic overachiever.

### RUNNING BACKS

Player, School	Hgt.	Wgt.
Darrell Thompson, Minnesota	6-1	220
Blair Thomas, Penn State	5-11	190
Anthony Thompson, Indiana	6-0	209
Harold Green, South Carolina	6-2	218
Johnny Bailey, Texas A&I	5-9	180
Johnny Johnson, San Jose St.	6-3	209
James Gray, Texas Tech	5-10	210
Michael Owens, Syracuse	5-11	215
Derek Loville, Oregon	5-10	196
Steve Broussard, Wash. St.	5-7	210
Dabby Dawson, Wyoming	5-9	180
Blake Ezor, Michigan State	5-10	188
Dexter Carter, Florida State	5-9	168
Wesley McFadden, Clemson	5-11	203

**Analysis:** The leading prospect is Minnesota's Thompson, an awesome physical and athletic talent who has come through with several eye-catching performances despite a weak supporting cast. Joining Thompson as sure-fire early first-round choices are Thomas and Indiana's Thompson. Thomas will attempt to regain his old form after missing the 1988 campaign with a serious knee injury. Thompson lacks game-breaking speed but is one of the more instinctive backs in the group as well as a battler, never going down after the first hit. Green and Bailey are in the second tier of running backs. Green is a vastly underrated player with exceptional raw talent. Bailey, one of the top



Minnesota tailback  
Darrell Thompson

small-college athletes the last two years, consistently frustrates defenders with his elusive style. Johnson is a relative unknown, but he can do some real damage once he enters the NFL. Gray and Owens have both had their moments but lack consistency. Loville is a smooth, gliding runner with outstanding vision. Broussard packs a lot of muscle on his 5-foot-7 frame. Dawson and Carter lack ideal size for full-time duty at the pro level, but their tremendous quickness leaves defenders sprawled on the turf. Heading the overachiever list is Ezor, a gutsy, determined player with a north-south running style. McFadden has shown flashes of brilliance while performing in the shadow of talented underclassman Terry Allen.

### FULLBACKS

Player, School	Hgt.	Wgt.
Aaron Emanuel, Southern Cal	6-2	225
James Rouse, Arkansas	6-1	223
Leroy Holt, Southern Cal	6-0	215
Anthony Johnson, Notre Dame	6-0	220
Leon Perry, Oklahoma	6-1	223
Braxton Banks, Notre Dame	6-3	211
Cedric Jackson, TCU	6-0	222

**Analysis:** Emanuel and Rouse are collegiate tailbacks who, because of their size, figure to play fullback in the NFL. Emanuel, who finally surfaced as a potential blue-chipper last season, is joined in the talent-laden USC backfield by Holt, a rugged fullback who does a fine job between the tackles, pinching the defense inside. Notre Dame has a pair of outstanding fullbacks in Johnson and Banks. Johnson is the more complete player because he has the quickness to turn the corner when the middle is jammed and he is a surehanded receiver and steady lead



blocker. Perry is reliable, while Jackson is a former junior college star with potential.

## WIDE RECEIVERS

Player, School	Hgt.	Wgt.
Rob Moore, Syracuse	6-2	201
Reggie Rembert, West Virginia	6-6	200
Greg McMurtry, Michigan	6-3	197
Clarkston Hines, Duke	6-1	170
Ronald Lewis, Florida State	6-0	179
Ed McCaffrey, Stanford	6-6	220
Bruce LaSane, Florida State	6-4	210
Chris Galters, Minnesota	6-1	184
Kerry Simien, Texas A&I	5-11	170
Terry Obee, Oregon	5-11	183
Gary Cooper, Clemson	6-2	196
Marc Hicks, Ohio State	6-2	210
Tim Stallworth, Washington St.	5-11	171
Alexander Wright, Auburn	6-0	187

**Analysis:** Each year there are several fourth-year juniors who decide to enter the NFL draft, and the top candidate in 1990 is Moore, a highly skilled wideout with Art Monk-type ability. Rembert and McMurtry are two of the tougher receivers to cover man to man, using their height and long arms to make life miserable for cornerbacks. Hines has excelled despite working with three different quarterbacks at Duke. Lewis is loaded with natural talent but has yet to live up to his potential. Teammate LaSane lacks Lewis' athletic ability but has been the more reliable player in the Seminoles' scheme, coming on like gangbusters last season. One of the more underrated players in the Pacific-10 Conference is McCaffrey, a sure-handed wide receiver with tight end size. Galters is a versatile athlete who excels as a return specialist. Simien is an acrobatic receiver who has been an intriguing prospect since his freshman season. Obee has the speed to make the big play, while Cooper has been limited at Clemson by the Tigers' conservative, ball-control offense. Hicks is still learning to play wide receiver after moving from tailback. Stallworth and Wright both could move well up the charts with solid senior seasons. Stallworth is a polished, disciplined wideout with sure hands, while Wright is one of the fastest receivers in the group (about 4.35 seconds over 40 yards).

## TIGHT ENDS

Player, School	Hgt.	Wgt.
Charles Arbuckle, UCLA	6-2	238
Scott Galbraith, Southern Cal	6-3	240
Maurice Johnson, Temple	6-3	240
Adrian Moss, West Virginia	6-5	250
Phil Ross, Oregon State	6-4	221
Jackie Harris, NE Louisiana	6-3	230
Stephen Clark, Texas	6-5	234

**Analysis:** This will be a strong position in the 1990 draft. Arbuckle is ready to establish himself as one of the country's better tight ends in quite some time. He has outstanding speed and flawless pass-receiving skills. Galbraith came into his own last season, developing into a clutch receiver. Johnson will be worth watching closely this season. Moss saw limited duty in 1988 but was impressive when given an opportunity. Ross and Harris lack ideal size but are two of the more gifted pure receivers in the group. Clark is rated high because of his blocking ability.



*UCLA tight end  
Charles Arbuckle*

## OFFENSIVE TACKLES

Player, School	Hgt.	Wgt.
John Durden, Florida	6-6	285
Chris Port, Duke	6-7	280
Mike Pfeifer, Kentucky	6-7	300
Greg Smith, Vanderbilt	6-7	276
Roman Matusz, Pitt	6-5	275
Rick Meyer, UCLA	6-6	275
Terrill Chatman, Alabama	6-4	298
Brent Parkinson, Southern Cal	6-6	260
Doug Glaser, Nebraska	6-7	295
Robert Packnett, LSU	6-5	270

**Analysis:** There isn't a Tony Mandarich in this group, but there are several prospects with the overall size and growth potential to carry inflated ratings into the 1990 draft. Heading that list are Durden, Port, Pfeifer, Smith and Matusz. Meyer, a guard at UCLA who could play tackle as a pro, quietly developed into one of the more consistent linemen on the West Coast, grading out equally well as a run and pass blocker. Chatman and Parkinson also are promising prospects. Glaser is a mountain of a man, but he needs to improve his mobility. Continued improvement is expected from Packnett.

## OFFENSIVE GUARDS

Player, School	Hgt.	Wgt.
Bob Kula, Michigan State	6-4	282
Roy Brown, Virginia	6-6	270
Blake Bednarz, Syracuse	6-3	303
Pat Crowley, North Carolina	6-3	280
Tim Grunhard, Notre Dame	6-3	292

**Analysis:** Mandarich's replacement at tackle, former guard Kula, is a devastating one-on-one drive blocker, showing exceptional pop at the point of attack. Brown is a polished, well-coached lineman whose outstanding technique allows him to neutralize the charge of defensive



*Stanford defensive tackle  
Lester Archambeau*

tackles that outweigh him by 30 pounds. One of the stronger and more physical prospects is Bednarz, who loves to slug it out in the trenches. Crowley has been a top-flight lineman in the Atlantic Coast Conference the last three years, while Grunhard heads the overachiever list.

## CENTERS

Player, School	Hgt.	Wgt.
Frank Cornish, UCLA	6-4	275
Jake Young, Nebraska	6-5	260
Bern Brostek, Washington	6-3	275
Dean Caliguire, Pittsburgh	6-3	270

**Analysis:** Cornish has gone from being one of the top prep prospects in the country to becoming the nation's top pro prospect at center. He uses his athletic ability, quickness and strength to control the middle of the line. Young is a dominant straight-ahead drive blocker who can handle the nose tackle by himself. Physically, Brostek is ideal for the center position; he gets good position on the defender and takes maximum advantage of his brute strength and tenacity. Caliguire may lack superior natural talent, but he gets the most out of his skills.

## DEFENSIVE LINEMEN

Player, School	Hgt.	Wgt.
Lester Archambeau, Stanford	6-5	255
Dennis Brown, Washington	6-4	300
Jimmie Jones, Miami (Fla.)	6-4	261
Tim Ryan, Southern Cal	6-5	250
Rob Burnett, Syracuse	6-3	265
Bill Goldberg, Georgia	6-3	266
Bill Hitchcock, Purdue	6-6	290
Sean Smith, Georgia Tech	6-7	263
Oliver Barnett, Kentucky	6-3	285
Anthony Smith, Arizona	6-4	263
Willis Peguese, Miami (Fla.)	6-4	246
Ken Hackmack, Texas	6-9	288
Jeff Alm, Notre Dame	6-7	246



# 1990 DRAFT

**Analysis:** Archambeau has gotten bigger and stronger each year with the Cardinal, displaying future NFL star quality. The Pac-10 has two other potential blue-chip tackles in Brown and Ryan. Brown is an agile 300-pounder with tremendous potential, while Ryan has been a standout for the Trojans since his freshman year. Jones is an excellent tackle who has been largely unheralded while operating in the shadows of his more highly publicized teammates. One of the top pure outside pass rushers is Burnett, who has outstanding initial quickness, above-average pass-rush technique and eye-catching speed once he separates from the offensive tackle. Goldberg is an intense noseguard who goes full speed every time the ball is snapped. Hitchcock (who will play offensive rather than defensive tackle this fall), Georgia Tech's Smith and Hackmack possess the size, wingspan, and growth potential that NFL teams covet. Barnett busts into the opposition's backfield before the play has a chance to develop. Arizona's Smith sat out last season after transferring from Alabama, where he showed outstanding natural ability and the potential to become an early-round draft choice. Peguese will have a chance this season to flash his athletic skills, taking over a role similar to that of Daniel Stubbs during his stay with the Hurricanes. Alm is a strong pass rusher.

## LINEBACKERS

Player, School	Hgt.	Wgt.
James Francis, Baylor	6-4	246
Aaron Wallace, Texas A&M	6-4	225
Terry Wooden, Syracuse	6-2	232
Percy Snow, Michigan State	6-3	240
Darion Conner, Jackson State	6-3	248
Glenell Sanders, La. Tech	6-0	227
Bernard Clark, Miami (Fla.)	6-2	246
Renaldo Turnbull, W. Virginia	6-5	234
Craig Ogletree, Auburn	6-2	226
Rob Hinckley, Stanford	6-5	245
Lamar Lathon, Houston	6-3	230
Brad Quast, Iowa	6-2	246
DeMond Winston, Vanderbilt	6-3	231
Chris Singleton, Arizona	6-3	246
A.J. Miller, Missouri	6-1	241

**Analysis:** There are four legitimate blue-chip linebackers in this group, with at least six others capable of moving into that category by next April. The four solid first-rounders are Francis, Wallace, Wooden and Snow. Francis uses his excellent physical ability effectively. Wallace finally will get his due this fall after performing in the shadow of John Roper the last two years. Although he lacks great size, Wooden is perhaps the hardest hitter in the group and is quicker than some defensive backs. Snow is your classic 4-3 middle linebacker, although his overall grasp of the position should allow him to adapt to any scheme. Players in the second echelon are Conner, Sanders, Clark, Turnbull, Ogletree and Hinckley. Conner and Clark are similar physically, possessing all the desired qualities in a top-notch pure inside linebacker. Sanders showed he could play with anybody against Flori-



**Baylor linebacker**  
**James Francis**

da State last year. Turnbull is a rangy, attack outside linebacker in the mold of former Mountaineer star Darryl Talley. Ogletree isn't in a class with former teammate Aundray Bruce or even Brian Smith for that matter, but he still projects to go in the third or fourth round of the draft. The physically imposing Hinckley could be one of the top defensive players on the West Coast. Lathon established himself as a solid player last year. Quast has been a steady performer since his freshman year. Winston has experience at every linebacker position. Singleton is a real headhunter in the Wildcat scheme, while the underrated Miller's future was clouded by a serious knee injury last spring.

## DEFENSIVE BACKS

Player, School	Hgt.	Wgt.
Robert Blackmon, Baylor	5-11	195
Mark Carrier, Southern Cal	6-1	180
Alonzo Hampton, Pittsburgh	6-0	190
Garry Lewis, Alcorn State	5-11	178
Pat Terrell, Notre Dame	6-0	195
Alan Grant, Stanford	5-10	187
Adrian Jones, Missouri	6-0	184
James Lott, Clemson	5-10	174
Don Price, Mississippi	5-11	198
Stan Smagala, Notre Dame	5-11	186
Ben Smith, Georgia	5-11	180
Derek Horton, Oregon	5-11	184
John Hardy, California	6-0	180
James Williams, Fresno State	5-11	175
Lee Ozmint, Alabama	6-5	210
John Armstrong, Temple	6-2	210
Bobby Harden, Miami (Fla.)	6-2	195

**Analysis:** Blackmon, a strong safety, will carry a higher rating into the 1990 draft than former Baylor star Ron Francis. Carrier, a free safety, is a blue-chip fourth-year junior who could turn pro in 1990 or return to USC for his final season of eligibility. Hampton and Lewis are two



**Baylor safety**  
**Robert Blackmon**

of the better cover cornerbacks available, while Terrell grades out as a superior all-around athlete from his free safety position. Grant, who can do some serious damage as a punt returner, will give some NFL team a versatile threat at cornerback. Jones, Lott and Price have shown excellent coverage skills, although Jones is hampered by the lack of a consistent pass rush by Missouri's defensive line. The opposition has learned not to attack Smagala at cornerback; he uses his 4.4 speed to blanket wide receivers. If cornerback Smith ever puts it all together, he could be a high-round pick. Horton (free safety) and Hardy (cornerback) are solid players, while Williams has the closing speed and instincts to make the grade as a pro cornerback. Safeties Ozmint, Armstrong and Harden look like middle-rounders.

## PLACEKICKERS

Player, School	Hgt.	Wgt.
David Browndyke, LSU	6-2	185
Matt Stover, Louisiana Tech	5-10	174
Johnny Clark, Vanderbilt	5-11	179
Pat O'Morrow, Ohio State	5-11	180

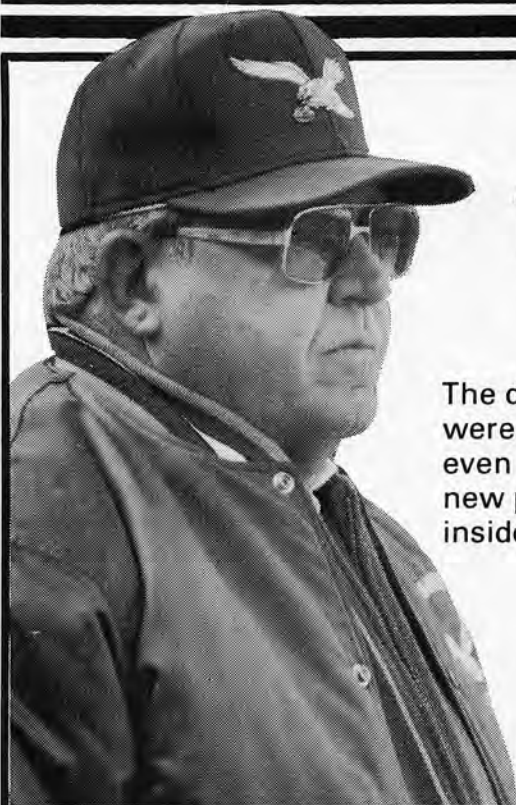
**Analysis:** The only placekicker with draftable grades entering the 1989 campaign is Browndyke. The others could go late in the draft or be signed as free agents.

## PUNTERS

Player, School	Hgt.	Wgt.
Alex Waits, Texas	6-2	191
Tony Rhynes, UNLV	6-1	225
Tom Bolyard, Indiana	6-2	194
Bart Bradley, Sam Houston St.	6-0	193
Brian Jones, Pacific	6-1	180

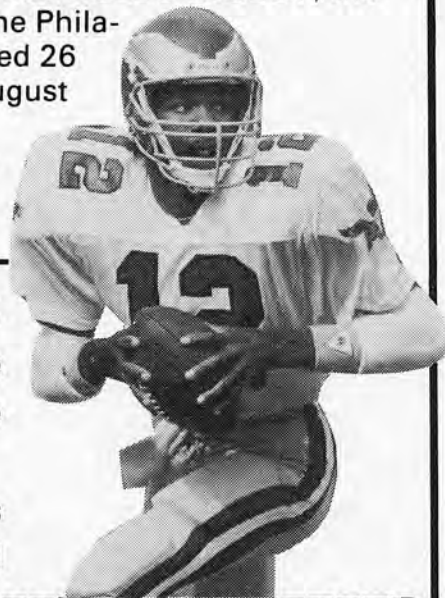
**Analysis:** A weak group. The best prospects might not even be drafted.





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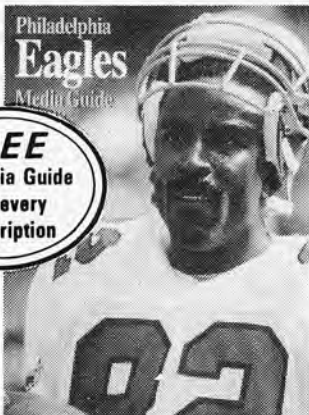
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## PRESEASON

(All times local)

### HALL OF FAME GAME

**SATURDAY, AUGUST 5**

Buffalo vs. Washington at Canton, O. (ABC) ..... 1:30  
L.A. Rams vs. San Francisco at Tokyo (ESPN) ..... 1:00

**SUNDAY, AUGUST 6**

Cleveland vs. Philadelphia at London (NBC) ..... 1:00

### FIRST WEEK

**FRIDAY, AUGUST 11**

Seattle at Phoenix ..... 7:30

**SATURDAY, AUGUST 12**

Atlanta at Philadelphia ..... 7:30  
Cleveland at Detroit ..... 7:30  
Houston at Tampa Bay ..... 7:00  
Indianapolis at New Orleans ..... 7:00  
Kansas City vs. Minnesota at Memphis, Tenn. .... 7:30  
Los Angeles Rams at Denver ..... 7:00  
New York Giants at New England ..... 7:00  
New York Jets vs. Green Bay at Milwaukee ..... 1:00  
San Francisco at Los Angeles Raiders ..... 6:00  
Washington at Pittsburgh ..... 8:00

**SUNDAY, AUGUST 13**

Buffalo at Cincinnati (CBS) ..... 8:00  
Dallas at San Diego (ESPN) ..... 12:00

**MONDAY, AUGUST 14**

Chicago at Miami (ABC) ..... 8:00

### SECOND WEEK

**SATURDAY, AUGUST 19**

Atlanta at Tampa Bay ..... 7:00  
Cincinnati at Detroit ..... 7:30  
Dallas at Los Angeles Raiders ..... 6:00  
Denver at San Francisco (CBS) ..... 6:00  
Houston vs. Miami at Jacksonville, Fla. .... 7:30  
Indianapolis at Green Bay ..... 1:00  
New Orleans at Buffalo ..... 7:30  
Pittsburgh at Cleveland ..... 7:30  
San Diego at Chicago ..... 6:00  
Seattle vs. New England at St. Louis ..... 8:00

**SUNDAY, AUGUST 20**

New York Giants at Kansas City ..... 7:00  
N.Y. Jets vs. Phila. at Raleigh, N.C. (ESPN) ..... 8:00

**MONDAY, AUGUST 21**

Phoenix at Los Angeles Rams ..... 8:00  
Washington at Minnesota (ABC) ..... 7:00

## THIRD WEEK

**WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 23**

San Diego at San Francisco ..... 6:00

**FRIDAY, AUGUST 25**

Detroit at Seattle ..... 7:30  
Miami at Washington (NBC) ..... 8:00

**SATURDAY, AUGUST 26**

Buffalo vs. Green Bay at Madison, Wis. .... 1:00  
Cleveland at Phoenix ..... 6:00  
Dallas at Denver ..... 7:00  
Houston vs. Los Angeles Raiders at Oakland ..... 7:00  
Minnesota at Los Angeles Rams ..... 6:00  
New England at Atlanta ..... 7:30  
New York Jets at New York Giants ..... 8:00  
Pittsburgh at Philadelphia ..... 7:30  
Tampa Bay at Indianapolis ..... 7:30

**SUNDAY, AUGUST 27**

Kansas City at Chicago (ESPN) ..... 7:00

**MONDAY, AUGUST 28**

Cincinnati at New Orleans (ABC) ..... 7:00

## FOURTH WEEK

**FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 1**

Atlanta vs. Buffalo at Jacksonville, Fla. .... 8:00  
Cincinnati at Minnesota ..... 7:00  
Green Bay at New England ..... 7:00  
New York Jets at Kansas City ..... 7:30  
Phoenix at San Diego ..... 7:00  
San Francisco at Seattle (NBC) ..... 6:00  
Washington at New Orleans ..... 7:00

**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 2**

Chicago at Los Angeles Raiders ..... 1:00  
Denver at Indianapolis ..... 7:30  
Detroit at Los Angeles Rams ..... 6:00  
Houston at Dallas ..... 8:00  
Philadelphia at Miami (CBS) ..... 9:00  
Pittsburgh at New York Giants ..... 8:00  
Tampa Bay at Cleveland ..... 7:00

## REGULAR SEASON

### FIRST WEEK

**SUNDAY, SEPT. 10**

Buffalo at Miami ..... 4:00  
Cincinnati at Chicago ..... 12:00  
Cleveland at Pittsburgh ..... 4:00  
Dallas at New Orleans ..... 12:00  
Houston at Minnesota ..... 3:00  
Kansas City at Denver ..... 2:00  
Los Angeles Rams at Atlanta ..... 1:00  
New England at New York Jets ..... 4:00

Phoenix at Detroit ..... 1:00  
San Diego at Los Angeles Raiders ..... 1:00  
San Francisco at Indianapolis ..... 12:00  
Seattle at Philadelphia ..... 4:00  
Tampa Bay at Green Bay ..... 12:00

**MONDAY, SEPT. 11**

New York Giants at Washington ..... 9:00

## SECOND WEEK

**SUNDAY, SEPT. 17**

Dallas at Atlanta ..... 1:00  
Detroit at New York Giants ..... 4:00  
Houston at San Diego ..... 1:00  
Indianapolis at Los Angeles Rams ..... 1:00  
Los Angeles Raiders at Kansas City ..... 12:00  
Miami at New England ..... 1:00  
Minnesota at Chicago ..... 3:00  
New Orleans at Green Bay ..... 12:00  
New York Jets at Cleveland ..... 1:00  
Philadelphia at Washington ..... 1:00  
Phoenix at Seattle ..... 1:00  
Pittsburgh at Cincinnati ..... 1:00  
San Francisco at Tampa Bay ..... 4:00

**MONDAY, SEPT. 18**

Denver at Buffalo ..... 9:00

## THIRD WEEK

**SUNDAY, SEPT. 24**

Atlanta at Indianapolis ..... 12:00  
Buffalo at Houston ..... 12:00  
Chicago at Detroit ..... 1:00  
Green Bay at Los Angeles Rams ..... 1:00  
Kansas City at San Diego ..... 1:00  
Los Angeles Raiders at Denver ..... 2:00  
Minnesota at Pittsburgh ..... 1:00  
New Orleans at Tampa Bay ..... 1:00  
New York Jets at Miami ..... 4:00  
Phoenix at New York Giants ..... 1:00  
San Francisco at Philadelphia ..... 1:00  
Seattle at New England ..... 1:00  
Washington at Dallas ..... 12:00

**MONDAY, SEPT. 25**

Cleveland at Cincinnati ..... 9:00

## FOURTH WEEK

**SUNDAY, OCT. 1**

Atlanta vs. Green Bay at Milwaukee ..... 12:00  
Cincinnati at Kansas City ..... 12:00  
Denver at Cleveland ..... 1:00  
Indianapolis at New York Jets ..... 1:00  
Los Angeles Rams at San Francisco ..... 1:00  
Miami at Houston ..... 12:00  
New England at Buffalo ..... 1:00  
New York Giants at Dallas ..... 3:00  
Pittsburgh at Detroit ..... 1:00  
San Diego at Phoenix ..... 1:00  
Seattle at Los Angeles Raiders ..... 1:00  
Tampa Bay at Minnesota ..... 12:00  
Washington at New Orleans ..... 12:00

**MONDAY, OCT. 2**

Philadelphia at Chicago ..... 8:00

## FIFTH WEEK

**SUNDAY, OCT. 8**

Atlanta at Los Angeles Rams ..... 1:00  
Buffalo at Indianapolis ..... 12:00  
Chicago at Tampa Bay ..... 1:00  
Cincinnati at Pittsburgh ..... 1:00  
Cleveland at Miami ..... 1:00  
Dallas at Green Bay ..... 12:00  
Detroit at Minnesota ..... 12:00  
Houston at New England ..... 1:00  
Kansas City at Seattle ..... 1:00  
New Orleans at San Francisco ..... 1:00  
New York Giants at Philadelphia ..... 1:00  
Phoenix at Washington ..... 4:00  
San Diego at Denver ..... 2:00

**MONDAY, OCT. 9**

Los Angeles Raiders at New York Jets ..... 9:00

## SIXTH WEEK

**SUNDAY, OCT. 15**

Detroit at Tampa Bay ..... 1:00  
Green Bay at Minnesota ..... 12:00  
Houston at Chicago ..... 12:00  
Indianapolis at Denver ..... 2:00  
Kansas City at Los Angeles Raiders ..... 1:00  
Miami at Cincinnati ..... 1:00  
New England at Atlanta ..... 1:00  
New York Jets at New Orleans ..... 3:00  
Philadelphia at Phoenix ..... 1:00  
Pittsburgh at Cleveland ..... 4:00  
San Francisco at Dallas ..... 12:00  
Seattle at San Diego ..... 1:00  
Washington at New York Giants ..... 1:00

## 1988 NFL FINAL STANDINGS

### AMERICAN CONFERENCE

#### EASTERN DIVISION

	W.	L.	T.	Pct.	Pts.	Opp.
*Buffalo	12	4	0	.750	329	237
Indianapolis	9	7	0	.563	354	315
New England	9	7	0	.563	250	284
N.Y. Jets	8	7	1	.531	372	354
Miami	6	10	0	.375	319	380

#### CENTRAL DIVISION

	W.	L.	T.	Pct.	Pts.	Opp.
*Cincinnati	12	4	0	.750	448	329
†Cleveland	10	6	0	.625	304	288
†Houston	10	6	0	.625	424	365
Pittsburgh	5	11	0	.313	336	421

#### WESTERN DIVISION

	W.	L.	T.	Pct.	Pts.	Opp.
*Seattle	9	7	0	.563	339	329
Denver	8	8	0	.500	327	352
L.A. Raiders	7	9	0	.438	325	369
San Diego	6	10	0	.375	231	332
Kansas City	4	11	1	.281	254	320

\*Division champion. †Wild-card team.

### NATIONAL CONFERENCE

#### EASTERN DIVISION

	W.	L.	T.	Pct.	Pts.	Opp.
*Philadelphia	10	6	0	.625	379	319
N.Y. Giants	10	6	0	.625	359	304
Washington	7	9	0	.438	345	387
Phoenix	7	9	0	.438	344	398
Dallas	3	13	0	.188	265	381

#### CENTRAL DIVISION

	W.	L.	T.	Pct.	Pts.	Opp.
*Chicago	12	4	0	.750	312	215
†Minnesota	11	5	0	.688	406	233
Tampa Bay	5	11	0	.313	261	350
Detroit	4	12	0	.250	220	313
Green Bay	4	12	0	.250	240	315

#### WESTERN DIVISION

	W.	L.	T.	Pct.	Pts.	Opp.
*San Francisco	10	6	0	.625	369	294
†L.A. Rams	10	6	0	.625	407	293
New Orleans	10	6	0	.625	312	283
Atlanta	5	11	0	.313	244	315

### PLAYOFFS

AFC wild card: Houston 24, Cleveland 23

AFC semifinals: Cincinnati 21, Seattle 13;

Buffalo 17, Houston 10

AFC championship: Cincinnati 21, Buffalo 10

NFC wild card: Minnesota 28, Los Angeles Rams 17

NFC semifinals: Chicago 20, Philadelphia 12;

San Francisco 34, Minnesota 9

NFC championship: San Francisco 28, Chicago 3

NFL championship: San Francisco 20, Cincinnati 16



**MONDAY, OCT. 16**

Los Angeles Rams at Buffalo ..... 9:00

**SEVENTH WEEK****SUNDAY, OCT. 22**

Atlanta at Phoenix ..... 1:00  
 Dallas at Kansas City ..... 12:00  
 Denver at Seattle ..... 1:00  
 Green Bay at Miami ..... 1:00  
 Indianapolis at Cincinnati ..... 1:00  
 Los Angeles Raiders at Philadelphia ..... 1:00  
 Minnesota at Detroit ..... 1:00  
 New England at San Francisco ..... 1:00  
 New Orleans at Los Angeles Rams ..... 1:00  
 New York Giants at San Diego ..... 1:00  
 New York Jets at Buffalo ..... 1:00  
 Pittsburgh at Houston ..... 12:00  
 Tampa Bay at Washington ..... 1:00

**MONDAY, OCT. 23**

Chicago at Cleveland ..... 9:00

**EIGHTH WEEK****SUNDAY, OCT. 29**

Atlanta at New Orleans ..... 12:00  
 Detroit vs. Green Bay at Milwaukee ..... 12:00  
 Houston at Cleveland ..... 1:00  
 Kansas City at Pittsburgh ..... 1:00  
 Los Angeles Rams at Chicago ..... 12:00  
 Miami at Buffalo ..... 1:00  
 New England at Indianapolis ..... 1:00  
 Philadelphia at Denver ..... 2:00  
 Phoenix at Dallas ..... 12:00  
 San Diego at Seattle ..... 1:00  
 San Francisco at New York Jets ..... 4:00  
 Tampa Bay at Cincinnati ..... 1:00  
 Washington at Los Angeles Raiders ..... 1:00

**MONDAY, OCT. 30**

Minnesota at New York Giants ..... 9:00

**NINTH WEEK****SUNDAY, NOV. 5**

Buffalo at Atlanta ..... 1:00  
 Chicago at Green Bay ..... 12:00  
 Cincinnati at Los Angeles Raiders ..... 1:00  
 Cleveland at Tampa Bay ..... 1:00  
 Detroit at Houston ..... 12:00  
 Indianapolis at Miami ..... 1:00  
 Los Angeles Rams at Minnesota ..... 12:00  
 New York Giants at Phoenix ..... 2:00  
 New York Jets at New England ..... 1:00  
 Philadelphia at San Diego ..... 1:00  
 Pittsburgh at Denver ..... 2:00  
 Seattle at Kansas City ..... 12:00  
 Dallas at Washington ..... 8:00

**MONDAY, NOV. 6**

San Francisco at New Orleans ..... 8:00

**TENTH WEEK****SUNDAY, NOV. 12**

Atlanta at San Francisco ..... 1:00  
 Chicago at Pittsburgh ..... 1:00  
 Cleveland at Seattle ..... 1:00

Dallas at Phoenix ..... 2:00  
 Denver at Kansas City ..... 12:00  
 Green Bay at Detroit ..... 1:00  
 Indianapolis at Buffalo ..... 1:00  
 Miami at New York Jets ..... 1:00  
 Minnesota at Tampa Bay ..... 1:00  
 New Orleans at New England ..... 1:00  
 New York Giants at Los Angeles Rams ..... 1:00  
 Washington at Philadelphia ..... 1:00  
 Los Angeles Raiders at San Diego ..... 5:00

**MONDAY, NOV. 13**

Cincinnati at Houston ..... 8:00

**ELEVENTH WEEK****SUNDAY, NOV. 19**

Buffalo at New England ..... 1:00  
 Detroit at Cincinnati ..... 1:00  
 Green Bay at San Francisco ..... 1:00  
 Kansas City at Cleveland ..... 1:00  
 Los Angeles Raiders at Houston ..... 3:00  
 Miami at Dallas ..... 12:00  
 Minnesota at Philadelphia ..... 1:00  
 New Orleans at Atlanta ..... 1:00  
 Phoenix at Los Angeles Rams ..... 1:00  
 San Diego at Pittsburgh ..... 1:00  
 Seattle at New York Giants ..... 4:00  
 Tampa Bay at Chicago ..... 12:00  
 New York Jets at Indianapolis ..... 8:00

**MONDAY, NOV. 20**

Denver at Washington ..... 9:00

**TWELFTH WEEK****THURSDAY, NOV. 23**

Cleveland at Detroit ..... 12:30  
 Philadelphia at Dallas ..... 3:00

**SUNDAY, NOV. 26**

Atlanta at New York Jets ..... 1:00  
 Chicago at Washington ..... 4:00  
 Cincinnati at Buffalo ..... 1:00  
 Houston at Kansas City ..... 12:00  
 Minnesota vs. Green Bay at Milwaukee ..... 12:00  
 New England at Los Angeles Raiders ..... 1:00  
 Pittsburgh at Miami ..... 1:00  
 San Diego at Indianapolis ..... 1:00  
 Seattle at Denver ..... 2:00  
 Tampa Bay at Phoenix ..... 2:00  
 Los Angeles Rams at New Orleans ..... 7:00

**MONDAY, NOV. 27**

New York Giants at San Francisco ..... 6:00

**THIRTEENTH WEEK****SUNDAY, DEC. 3**

Cincinnati at Cleveland ..... 1:00  
 Denver at Los Angeles Raiders ..... 1:00  
 Green Bay at Tampa Bay ..... 1:00  
 Houston at Pittsburgh ..... 1:00  
 Indianapolis at New England ..... 1:00  
 Los Angeles Rams at Dallas ..... 12:00  
 Miami at Kansas City ..... 12:00  
 New Orleans at Detroit ..... 1:00  
 New York Jets at San Diego ..... 1:00  
 Philadelphia at New York Giants ..... 1:00

San Francisco at Atlanta ..... 1:00  
 Washington at Phoenix ..... 2:00  
 Chicago at Minnesota ..... 7:00

**MONDAY, DEC. 4**

Buffalo at Seattle ..... 6:00

**FOURTEENTH WEEK****SUNDAY, DEC. 10**

Atlanta at Minnesota ..... 12:00  
 Cleveland at Indianapolis ..... 4:00  
 Dallas at Philadelphia ..... 1:00  
 Detroit at Chicago ..... 12:00  
 Kansas City at Green Bay ..... 12:00  
 New Orleans at Buffalo ..... 1:00  
 New York Giants at Denver ..... 2:00  
 Phoenix at Los Angeles Raiders ..... 1:00  
 Pittsburgh at New York Jets ..... 1:00  
 San Diego at Washington ..... 1:00  
 Seattle at Cincinnati ..... 1:00  
 Tampa Bay at Houston ..... 12:00  
 New England at Miami ..... 8:00

**MONDAY, DEC. 11**

San Francisco at Los Angeles Rams ..... 6:00

**FIFTEENTH WEEK****SATURDAY, DEC. 16**

Dallas at New York Giants ..... 12:30  
 Denver at Phoenix ..... 2:00

**SUNDAY, DEC. 17**

Buffalo at San Francisco ..... 1:00  
 Green Bay at Chicago ..... 12:00  
 Houston at Cincinnati ..... 1:00  
 Miami at Indianapolis ..... 1:00  
 Minnesota at Cleveland ..... 1:00  
 New England at Pittsburgh ..... 1:00  
 New York Jets at Los Angeles Rams ..... 1:00  
 San Diego at Kansas City ..... 12:00  
 Tampa Bay at Detroit ..... 1:00  
 Washington at Atlanta ..... 4:00  
 Los Angeles Raiders at Seattle ..... 5:00

**MONDAY, DEC. 18**

Philadelphia at New Orleans ..... 8:00

**SIXTEENTH WEEK****SATURDAY, DEC. 23**

Buffalo at New York Jets ..... 12:30  
 Washington at Seattle ..... 1:00  
 Cleveland at Houston ..... 7:00

**SUNDAY, DEC. 24**

Chicago at San Francisco ..... 1:00  
 Denver at San Diego ..... 1:00  
 Detroit at Atlanta ..... 1:00  
 Green Bay at Dallas ..... 12:00  
 Indianapolis at New Orleans ..... 12:00  
 Kansas City at Miami ..... 1:00  
 L.A. Raiders at N.Y. Giants ..... 1:00  
 Los Angeles Rams at New England ..... 1:00  
 Phoenix at Philadelphia ..... 1:00  
 Pittsburgh at Tampa Bay ..... 1:00

**MONDAY, DEC. 25**

Cincinnati at Minnesota ..... 8:00

**1989 NATIONAL TELEVISION SCHEDULE**

(All games carried on CBS Radio Network)

**REGULAR SEASON**

Sept. 11—New York Giants at Washington (Monday/ABC)  
 Sept. 18—Denver at Buffalo (Monday/ABC)  
 Sept. 25—Cleveland at Cincinnati (Monday/ABC)  
 Oct. 2—Philadelphia at Chicago (Monday/ABC)  
 Oct. 9—Los Angeles Raiders at New York Jets (Monday/ABC)  
 Oct. 16—Los Angeles Rams at Buffalo (Monday/ABC)  
 Oct. 23—Chicago at Cleveland (Monday/ABC)  
 Oct. 30—Minnesota at New York Giants (Monday/ABC)  
 Nov. 5—Dallas at Washington (Sunday/ESPN)  
 Nov. 6—San Francisco at New Orleans (Monday/ABC)  
 Nov. 12—Los Angeles Raiders at San Diego (Sunday/ESPN)  
 Nov. 13—Cincinnati at Houston (Monday/ABC)  
 Nov. 19—New York Jets at Indianapolis (Sunday/ESPN)  
 Nov. 20—Denver at Washington (Monday/ABC)  
 Nov. 23—Cleveland at Detroit (Thursday/NBC)  
 Philadelphia at Dallas (Thursday/CBS)

Nov. 26—Los Angeles Rams at New Orleans (Sunday/ESPN)  
 Nov. 27—New York Giants at San Francisco (Monday/ABC)  
 Dec. 3—Chicago at Minnesota (Sunday/ESPN)  
 Dec. 4—Buffalo at Seattle (Monday/ABC)  
 Dec. 10—New England at Miami (Sunday/ESPN)  
 Dec. 11—San Francisco at Los Angeles Rams (Monday/ABC)  
 Dec. 16—Dallas at New York Giants (Saturday/CBS)  
 Denver at Phoenix (Saturday/NBC)  
 Dec. 17—Los Angeles Raiders at Seattle (Sunday/ESPN)  
 Dec. 18—Philadelphia at New Orleans (Monday/ABC)  
 Dec. 23—Buffalo at New York Jets (Saturday/NBC)  
 Washington at Seattle (Saturday/CBS)  
 Cleveland at Houston (Saturday/ESPN)  
 Dec. 25—Cincinnati at Minnesota (Monday/ABC)

**POSTSEASON**

Dec. 31—AFC and NFC first-round playoffs (Sunday/NBC, CBS)  
 Jan. 6—AFC and NFC divisional playoffs (Saturday/NBC, CBS)  
 Jan. 7—AFC and NFC divisional playoffs (Sunday/NBC, CBS)

Jan. 14—AFC and NFC championship games (Sunday/NBC, CBS)  
 Jan. 28—Super Bowl XXIV at New Orleans, La. (Sunday/CBS)  
 Feb. 4—AFC-NFC Pro Bowl at Honolulu, Hawaii (Sunday/ESPN)



# NFC STATISTICS

## RUSHING

Player, Team	Att.	Yds.	Avg.	Lng.	TDs
WALKER, Dallas	361	1514	4.2	38	5
Craig, San Francisco	310	1502	4.8	146	9
Bell, L.A. Rams	288	1212	4.2	44	16
Anderson, Chicago	249	1106	4.4	180	12
Morris, N.Y. Giants	307	1083	3.5	27	5
Settle, Atlanta	232	1024	4.4	62	7
Ferrell, Phoenix	202	924	4.6	47	7
Hilliard, New Orleans	204	823	4.0	36	5
S. Mitchell, Phoenix	164	726	4.4	47	4
Mayes, New Orleans	170	628	3.7	21	3
Cunningham, Phila.	93	624	6.7	133	6
James, Detroit	182	552	3.0	35	5
Byars, Philadelphia	152	517	3.4	52	6
Toney, Philadelphia	139	502	3.6	20	4
Bryant, Washington	108	498	4.6	25	1
Riggs, Atlanta	113	488	4.3	34	1
Fullwood, Green Bay	101	483	4.8	133	7
Smith, Washington	155	470	3.0	29	3
Tate, Tampa Bay	122	467	3.8	147	7
W. Howard, T. Bay	115	452	3.9	129	1
Morris, Washington	126	437	3.5	127	2
Rathman, San Fran.	102	427	4.2	26	2
D. Nelson, Minnesota	112	380	3.4	27	1
Heyward, New Orleans	74	355	4.8	173	1
Wilder, Tampa Bay	86	343	4.0	19	1
Sanders, Chicago	95	332	3.5	120	3
White, L.A. Rams	88	323	3.7	13	0
Rice, Minnesota	110	322	2.9	24	6
Jones, Detroit	96	314	3.3	13	0
Pelluer, Dallas	51	314	6.2	27	2

## RECEIVING

Player, Team	No.	Yds.	Avg.	Lng.	TDs
ELLARD, L.A. Rams	86	1414	16.4	68	10
Martin, New Orleans	85	1083	12.7	140	7
J.T. Smith, Phoenix	83	986	11.9	29	5
Keith Jackson, Phil.	81	869	10.7	41	6
Craig, San Francisco	76	534	7.0	22	1
Sanders, Washington	73	1148	15.7	155	12
Carter, Minnesota	72	1225	17.0	167	6
Monk, Washington	72	946	13.1	146	5
Byars, Philadelphia	72	705	9.8	37	4
Green, Phoenix	68	1097	16.1	52	7
Settle, Atlanta	68	570	8.4	27	1
Hill, New Orleans	66	703	10.7	35	7
Manuel, N.Y. Giants	65	1029	15.8	46	4
Rice, San Francisco	64	1306	20.4	196	9
Clark, Washington	59	892	15.1	160	7
Holohan, L.A. Rams	59	640	10.8	29	3
Hill, Tampa Bay	58	1040	17.9	142	9
Carrier, Tampa Bay	57	970	17.0	159	5
Jordan, Minnesota	57	756	13.3	38	5
Sharpe, Green Bay	55	791	14.4	51	1
Alexander, Dallas	54	788	14.6	150	6
Bavaro, N.Y. Giants	53	672	12.7	36	4
Walker, Dallas	53	505	9.5	50	2
Martin, Dallas	49	622	12.7	135	3
Kemp, Green Bay	48	620	12.9	36	0
McKinnon, Chicago	45	704	15.6	176	3

## PUNTING

Player, Team	Net Punts	Yards	Long	Avg.	Total Punts	TB.	Blk.	Opp. Ret.	Ret. Yds.	In 20	Net Avg.
ARNOLD, Detroit	97	4110	69	42.4	97	7	0	57	483	22	35.9
Wagner, Chicago	79	3282	70	41.5	79	10	0	40	447	18	33.4
Buford, N.Y. Giants	73	3012	66	41.3	75	10	2	36	296	13	33.5
Saxon, Dallas	80	3271	55	40.9	80	15	0	37	239	24	34.2
Horne, Phoenix	79	3228	66	40.9	80	9	1	41	416	16	32.9
Hansen, New Orleans	72	2913	64	40.5	73	8	1	39	248	19	34.3
Teltschik, Philadelphia	98	3958	70	40.4	101	8	3	45	375	28	33.9
Scribner, Minnesota	84	3387	55	40.3	86	9	2	39	405	23	32.6
Donnelly, Atlanta	98	3920	61	40.0	98	6	0	51	297	27	35.7
Camariillo, L.A. Rams	40	1579	57	39.5	40	2	0	26	145	11	34.8
Helton, San Francisco	78	3069	53	39.3	79	5	1	47	426	22	32.2
Bracken, Green Bay	85	3287	62	38.7	86	12	1	39	314	20	31.8
Criswell, Tampa Bay	68	2477	62	36.4	68	0	0	38	273	20	32.4

## PASSING

Player, Team	Att.	Cmp.	Pct. Cmp.	Yds.	Avg. Gain	TD	Pct. TD	Lg.	Int.	Pct. Int.	Rating
WILSON, Minnesota	332	204	61.4	2746	8.27	15	4.5	168	9	2.7	91.5
Everett, L.A. Rams	517	308	59.6	3964	7.67	31	6.0	169	18	3.5	89.2
Montana, San Francisco	397	238	59.9	2981	7.51	18	4.5	196	10	2.5	87.9
Lomax, Phoenix	443	255	57.6	3395	7.66	20	4.5	193	11	2.5	86.7
Simms, N.Y. Giants	479	263	54.9	3359	7.01	21	4.4	162	11	2.3	82.1
Hebert, New Orleans	478	280	58.6	3156	6.60	20	4.2	140	15	3.1	79.3
Cunningham, Philadelphia	560	301	53.8	3808	6.80	24	4.3	180	16	2.9	77.6
D. Williams, Washington	380	213	56.1	2609	6.87	15	3.9	58	12	3.2	77.4
Pelluer, Dallas	435	245	56.3	3139	7.22	17	3.9	161	19	4.4	73.9
Majkowski, Green Bay	336	178	53.0	2119	6.31	9	2.7	56	11	3.3	67.8
C. Miller, Atlanta	351	184	52.4	2133	6.08	11	3.1	168	12	3.4	67.3
Wright, Green Bay	244	141	57.8	1490	6.11	4	1.6	51	13	5.3	58.9
Hilger, Detroit	306	126	41.2	1558	5.09	7	2.3	56	12	3.9	48.9
Testaverde, Tampa Bay	466	222	47.6	3240	6.95	13	2.8	159	35	7.5	48.8

## INTERCEPTIONS

Player, Team	No.	Yds.	Avg.	Lng.	TDs
CASE, Atlanta	10	47	4.7	12	0
Lee, Minnesota	8	118	14.8	158	2
Hoage, Philadelphia	8	116	14.5	38	0
Jackson, Chicago	8	94	11.8	46	0
McKyer, San Fran.	7	11	1.6	7	0
Hamilton, Tampa Bay	6	123	20.5	58	0
Allen, Philadelphia	5	76	15.2	21	0
Lott, San Francisco	5	59	11.8	44	0
Moore, Atlanta	5	56	11.2	147	1
Browner, Minnesota	5	29	5.8	18	0
Hopkins, Philadelphia	5	21	4.2	11	0
Murphy, Green Bay	5	19	3.8	9	0
Joyner, Philadelphia	4	96	24.0	30	0
Solomon, Minnesota	4	84	21.0	178	1
S. White, N.Y. Giants	4	70	17.5	39	0
Cecil, Green Bay	4	56	14.0	33	0
Atkins, New Orleans	4	42	10.5	40	0
Clark, Atlanta	4	40	10.0	21	0
Tate, Chicago	4	35	8.8	17	0
Wilburn, Washington	4	24	6.0	14	0
Fuller, San Francisco	4	18	4.5	10	0
J. Johnson, L.A. Rams	4	18	4.5	11	0
Reynolds, Tampa Bay	4	7	1.8	7	0
Mitchell, Detroit	3	107	35.7	190	1
Waymer, New Orleans	3	91	30.3	44	0
Gray, L.A. Rams	3	83	27.7	147	1
Rutland, Minnesota	3	63	21.0	36	0
Jakes, New Orleans	3	61	20.3	39	0
Marshall, Washington	3	61	20.3	43	0
Fullington, Minnesota	3	57	19.0	40	0
Jamison, Detroit	3	56	18.7	152	1
Walton, Washington	3	54	18.0	29	0
J. Harris, Minnesota	3	46	15.3	27	0
Kinard, N.Y. Giants	3	46	15.3	39	0
Lee, Green Bay	3	37	12.3	27	0
Mack, Phoenix	3	33	11.0	12	0
Sutton, New Orleans	3	32	10.7	34	0
Stills, Green Bay	3	29	9.7	17	0
D. Brown, Green Bay	3	27	9.0	15	0
Irvin, L.A. Rams	3	25	8.3	22	0
Frizzell, Philadelphia	3	19	6.3	13	0
Waters, Philadelphia	3	19	6.3	14	0
Howard, Minnesota	3	16	5.3	10	0
Morrissey, Chicago	3	13	4.3	13	0
Elder, Tampa Bay	3	9	3.0	9	0
Carter, Phoenix	3	0	0.0	0	0

## SACKS

Player, Team	Sacks
WHITE, Philadelphia	18.0
Greene, L.A. Rams	16.5
Taylor, N.Y. Giants	15.5
Nunn, Phoenix	14.0
Harris, Green Bay	13.5
Cofer, Detroit	12.0
Haley, San Francisco	11.5
Jeter, L.A. Rams	11.5
McMichael, Chicago	11.5
Dent, Chicago	10.5
Hampton, Chicago	9.5
Manley, Washington	9.0
Ferguson, Detroit	8.5
Doleman, Minnesota	8.0
Marshall, N.Y. Giants	8.0
Millard, Minnesota	8.0
Simmons, Philadelphia	8.0
Cobb, Dallas	7.5
Martin, N.Y. Giants	7.5
Noonan, Dallas	7.5
Wilcher, L.A. Rams	7.5
Jackson, New Orleans	7.0
Jones, Dallas	7.0
Swilling, New Orleans	7.0
Carter, San Francisco	6.5
Jeffcoat, Dallas	6.5
E. Williams, Detroit	6.5
Bruce, Atlanta	6.0
Harvey, Phoenix	6.0
Roberts, San Francisco	6.0
Stubbs, San Francisco	6.0
Thomas, Minnesota	6.0
Baker, Minnesota	5.5
Jamison, Detroit	5.5
Mann, Washington	5.5
Brooks, Dallas	5.0
Brown, Philadelphia	5.0
Bryan, Atlanta	5.0
Clasby, Phoenix	5.0
Cotton, Atlanta	5.0
Holt, San Francisco	5.0
Owens, L.A. Rams	5.0
Winter, Green Bay	5.0

## PUNT RETURNS

Player, Team	No.	FC	Yds.	Avg.	Lng.	TDs
TAYLOR, San Fran.	44	7	556	12.6	195	2
Gray, New Orleans	25	8	305	12.2	166	1
Futrell, Tampa Bay	27	10	283	10.5	40	0



Player, Team	No.	FC	Yds.	Avg.	Lng.	TDs
Sikahema, Phoenix ..	33	8	341	10.3	28	0
Lewis, Minnesota .....	58	19	550	9.5	64	0
Barnes, Atlanta .....	34	8	307	9.0	68	0
Martin, Dallas .....	44	15	360	8.2	21	0
McKinnon, Chicago ..	34	8	277	8.1	23	0
McConkey, Giants .....	40	25	313	7.8	35	0
Mandley, Detroit .....	37	7	287	7.8	25	0
Konecny, Phila. ....	33	25	233	7.1	24	0
Hicks, L.A. Rams .....	25	0	144	5.8	13	0

### KICKOFF RETURNS

Player, Team	No.	Yds.	Avg.	Lng.	TDs
ELDER, Tampa Bay ...	34	772	22.7	51	0
Burbage, Dallas .....	20	448	22.4	53	0
Clack, Dallas .....	32	690	21.6	40	0
Gentry, Chicago .....	27	578	21.4	51	0
D. Harris, Minnesota ..	39	833	21.4	30	0
Atkins, New Orleans ..	20	424	21.2	57	0
Gray, New Orleans .....	32	670	20.9	39	0
Sikahema, Phoenix .....	23	475	20.7	39	0
Fullwood, Green Bay ...	21	421	20.0	31	0
Morris, Washington .....	21	413	19.7	35	0
DuBose, San Fran. ....	32	608	19.0	44	0
Beals, Philadelphia .....	34	625	18.4	32	0

## AFC STATISTICS

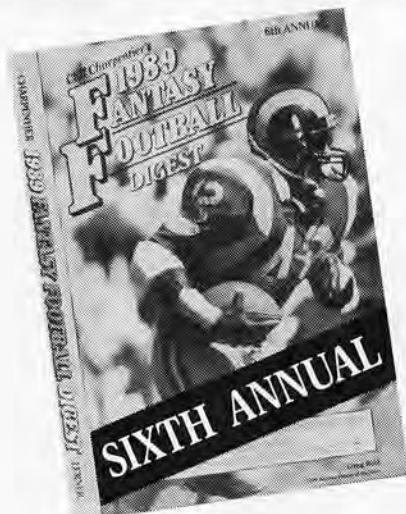
### RUSHING

Player, Team	Att.	Yds.	Avg.	Lng.	TDs
DICKERSON, Ind. ....	388	1659	4.3	t41	14
Stephens, New Eng. ....	297	1168	3.9	52	4
Anderson, San Diego ..	225	1119	5.0	36	3
Woods, Cincinnati .....	203	1066	5.3	56	15
Warner, Seattle .....	266	1025	3.9	29	10
Rozier, Houston .....	251	1002	4.0	28	10
McNeil, N.Y. Jets .....	219	944	4.3	28	6
Brooks, Cincinnati .....	182	931	5.1	t51	8
Thomas, Buffalo .....	207	881	4.3	t37	2
Williams, Seattle .....	189	877	4.6	t44	4
Allen, L.A. Raiders .....	223	831	3.7	32	7
Hoge, Pittsburgh .....	170	705	4.1	20	3
Dorsett, Denver .....	181	703	3.9	26	5
Jackson, L.A. Raiders ..	136	580	4.3	25	3
Byner, Cleveland .....	157	576	3.7	t27	3
Hector, N.Y. Jets .....	137	561	4.1	19	10
Winder, Denver .....	149	543	3.6	35	4
Vick, N.Y. Jets .....	128	540	4.2	17	3
Pinkett, Houston .....	122	513	4.2	27	7
Mack, Cleveland .....	123	485	3.9	65	3
Okoye, Kansas City .....	105	473	4.5	48	3
Highsmith, Houston .....	94	466	5.0	42	2
Palmer, Kansas City ..	134	452	3.4	t26	2
Perryman, New Eng. ....	146	448	3.1	16	6
Heard, Kansas City .....	106	438	4.1	20	0
Riddick, Buffalo .....	111	438	3.9	21	12
Hampton, Miami .....	117	414	3.5	33	9
W. Williams, Pitts. ....	87	409	4.7	33	0
Wilson, Cincinnati .....	112	398	3.6	19	2
Manoa, Cleveland .....	99	389	3.9	34	2

### RECEIVING

Player, Team	No.	Yds.	Avg.	Lng.	TDs
TOON, N.Y. Jets .....	93	1067	11.5	42	5
Clayton, Miami .....	86	1129	13.1	t45	14
Hill, Houston .....	72	1141	15.8	t57	10
Reed, Buffalo .....	71	968	13.6	t65	6
Shuler, N.Y. Jets .....	70	805	11.5	t42	5
V. Johnson, Denver .....	68	896	13.2	86	5
Paige, Kansas City .....	61	902	14.8	49	7
Givins, Houston .....	60	976	16.3	46	5
Byner, Cleveland .....	59	576	9.8	t39	2
Jensen, Miami .....	58	652	11.2	31	5
Williams, Seattle .....	58	651	11.2	t75	3
Langhorne, Cleveland ..	57	780	13.7	t77	7
Stradford, Miami .....	56	426	7.6	36	1
Brooks, Indianapolis .....	54	867	16.1	t53	3
Brown, Cincinnati .....	53	1273	24.0	t86	9
Palmer, Kansas City .....	53	611	11.5	t71	4
Lipps, Pittsburgh .....	50	973	19.5	t89	5
Hoge, Pittsburgh .....	50	487	9.7	40	3
Jackson, Denver .....	46	852	18.5	63	6
Carson, Kansas City .....	46	711	15.5	t80	3
Brennen, Cleveland .....	46	579	12.6	33	1
Nattiel, Denver .....	46	574	12.5	t74	1
T. Brown, L.A. Raiders ..	43	725	16.9	t65	5
Blades, Seattle .....	40	682	17.1	55	8
Largent, Seattle .....	39	645	16.5	46	2
Duper, Miami .....	39	626	16.1	56	1
Holland, San Diego .....	39	536	13.7	45	1
Holman, Cincinnati .....	39	527	13.5	33	3
Sewell, Denver .....	38	507	13.3	t68	5
T. Johnson, Buffalo .....	37	514	13.9	49	0

Continued



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1988 STATISTICS



## SCORING

## KICKERS

Player, Team	XP Made	XP Att.	FG Made	FG Att.	Tot. Pts.
NORWOOD, Buffalo	33	33	32	37	129
Anderson, Pittsburgh	34	35	28	36	118
Biasucci, Indianapolis	39	40	25	32	114
Zendejas, Houston	48	50	22	34	114
Leahy, N.Y. Jets	43	43	23	28	112
N. Johnson, Seattle	39	39	22	28	105
Karlis, Denver	36	37	23	36	105
Bahr, Cleveland	32	33	24	29	104
Lowery, Kansas City	23	23	27	32	104
Bahr, L.A. Raiders	37	39	18	29	91
Breech, Cincinnati	56	59	11	16	89
Revez, Miami	31	32	8	12	55
Abbott, San Diego	15	15	8	12	39
Stavrovsky, New Eng.	14	15	7	11	35
DeLine, San Diego	12	12	6	8	30
Garcia, New England	11	16	6	13	29
Franklin, Miami	6	7	4	11	18
Johnson, Cincinnati	0	0	1	2	3

## NON-KICKERS

Player, Team	Total TDs	Rush TDs	Pass TDs	Misc. TDs	Tot. Pts.
DICKERSON, Ind.	15	14	1	0	90
Woods, Cincinnati	15	15	0	0	90
Brooks, Cincinnati	14	8	6	0	84
Clayton, Miami	14	0	14	0	84
Riddick, Buffalo	14	12	1	1	84
Hampton, Miami	12	9	3	0	72
Warner, Seattle	12	10	2	0	72
Rozier, Houston	11	10	1	0	66
Hector, N.Y. Jets	10	10	0	0	60
Hill, Houston	10	0	10	0	60
Brown, Cincinnati	9	0	9	0	54
Pinkett, Houston	9	7	2	0	54
Smith, L.A. Raiders	9	3	6	0	54
Allen, L.A. Raiders	8	7	1	0	48
Blades, Seattle	8	0	8	0	48
Langhorne, Cleveland	8	1	7	0	48
T. Brown, Raiders	7	1	5	1	42
McNeil, N.Y. Jets	7	6	1	0	42
Paige, Kansas City	7	0	7	0	42
Walker, N.Y. Jets	7	0	7	0	42
Williams, Seattle	7	4	3	0	42
Brister, Pittsburgh	6	6	0	0	36
Hoge, Pittsburgh	6	3	3	0	36
Jackson, Denver	6	0	6	0	36
Lipps, Pittsburgh	6	1	5	0	36
McGee, Cincinnati	6	0	6	0	36
Palmer, Kansas City	6	2	4	0	36
Perryman, New Eng.	6	6	0	0	36
Reed, Buffalo	6	0	6	0	36
Sewell, Denver	6	1	5	0	36

## INTERCEPTIONS

Player, Team	No.	Yds.	Avg.	Lng.	TDs
McMILLAN, N.Y. Jets	8	168	21.0	155	2
Kelso, Buffalo	7	180	25.7	178	1
Byrd, San Diego	7	82	11.7	42	0

## PUNTING

Player, Team	Net Pts	Yards	Long	Avg.	Total Pts	TB.	Blk.	Opp. Ret.	Ret. Yds.	In 20	Net Avg.
NEWSOME, Pittsburgh	65	2950	62	45.4	71	10	6	40	418	9	32.8
Mojisejkenko, San Diego	85	3745	62	44.1	86	11	1	56	558	22	34.5
Horan, Denver	65	2861	70	44.0	65	2	0	33	364	19	37.8
Stark, Indianapolis	64	2784	65	43.5	64	8	0	37	418	15	34.5
Roby, Miami	64	2754	64	43.0	64	9	0	35	318	18	35.3
Gossett, L.A. Raiders	91	3804	58	41.8	91	8	0	47	397	27	35.7
Rodriguez, Seattle	70	2858	68	40.8	70	4	0	36	202	14	36.8
Goodburn, Kansas City	76	3059	59	40.3	76	8	0	48	473	10	31.9
Runager, S.F.-Cleveland	49	1959	52	40.0	51	2	2	25	201	13	33.7
Kidd, Buffalo	62	2451	60	39.5	62	2	0	36	222	13	35.3
Prokop, N.Y. Jets	85	3310	64	38.9	85	10	0	34	201	26	34.2
Montgomery, Houston	65	2523	61	38.8	65	5	0	35	206	12	34.1
Feagles, New England	91	3482	74	38.3	91	8	0	37	217	24	34.1
Fulhage, Cincinnati	44	1672	53	38.0	46	5	2	24	220	13	29.4

## PASSING

Player, Team	Att.	Cmp.	Pct.	Yds.	Avg.	TD	Pct.	Lg.	Int.	Pct.	Rating
ESIASON, Cincinnati	223	57.5	35.2	9.21	28	7.2	186	14	3.6	97.4	
Krieg, Seattle	228	134	58.8	1741	7.64	18	7.9	175	8	3.5	94.6
Moon, Houston	294	160	54.4	2327	7.91	17	5.8	157	8	2.7	88.4
Kosar, Cleveland	259	156	60.2	1890	7.30	10	3.9	177	7	2.7	84.3
Marino, Miami	606	354	58.4	4434	7.32	28	4.6	180	23	3.8	80.8
O'Brien, N.Y. Jets	424	236	55.7	2567	6.05	15	3.5	150	7	1.7	78.6
Kelly, Buffalo	452	269	59.5	3380	7.48	15	3.3	166	17	3.8	78.2
DeBerg, Kansas City	414	224	54.1	2935	7.09	16	3.9	180	16	3.9	73.5
Elway, Denver	496	274	55.2	3309	6.67	17	3.4	86	19	3.8	71.4
Chandler, Indianapolis	233	129	55.4	1619	6.95	8	3.4	54	12	5.2	67.2
Beuerlein, L.A. Raiders	238	105	44.1	1643	6.90	8	3.4	57	7	2.9	66.6
Brister, Pittsburgh	370	175	47.3	2634	7.12	11	3.0	189	14	3.8	65.3
Schroeder, L.A. Raiders	256	113	44.1	1839	7.18	13	5.1	185	13	5.1	64.6
Malone, San Diego	272	147	54.0	1580	5.81	6	2.2	59	13	4.8	58.8

Player, Team	No.	Yds.	Avg.	Lng.	TDs
Thomas, Cincinnati	7	61	8.7	37	0
Cherry, Kansas City	7	51	7.3	24	0
Moyer, Seattle	6	79	13.2	34	0
Wright, Cleveland	5	126	25.2	53	0
Taylor, Seattle	5	53	10.6	127	1
Fulcher, Cincinnati	5	38	7.6	16	1
Hasty, N.Y. Jets	5	20	4.0	16	0
Woodruff, Pittsburgh	4	109	27.3	178	1
Woodson, Pittsburgh	4	98	24.5	29	0
Clayborn, New Eng.	4	65	16.3	31	0
Williams, Miami	4	62	15.5	23	0
Judson, Miami	4	57	14.3	52	0
Billups, Cincinnati	4	47	11.8	29	0
Marion, New England	4	47	11.8	22	0
Harden, Denver	4	36	9.0	34	0
Tullis, Indianapolis	4	36	9.0	20	0
R. James, New Eng.	4	30	7.5	22	0
Donaldson, Houston	4	29	7.3	23	0
Minnifield, Cleveland	4	16	4.0	13	0
Washington, Cleveland	3	104	34.7	175	1
Bryant, Houston	3	56	18.7	136	1
Castille, Denver	3	51	17.0	33	0
Prior, Indianapolis	3	46	15.3	23	0
Jenkins, Seattle	3	41	13.7	21	0
Everett, Pittsburgh	3	31	10.3	29	0
Haynes, L.A. Raiders	3	30	10.0	30	0
McElroy, L.A. Raiders	3	17	5.7	13	0
Horton, Cincinnati	3	13	4.3	11	0
Bickett, Indianapolis	3	7	2.3	7	0
Booby, N.Y. Jets	3	0	0.0	0	0
R. Johnson, Houston	3	0	0.0	0	0

## SACKS

Player, Team	Sacks
TOWNSEND, L.A. Raiders	11.5
B. Smith, Buffalo	11.0
Williams, San Diego	11.0
Bennett, Buffalo	9.5
Skow, Cincinnati	9.5
Fletcher, Denver	9.0
Green, Seattle	9.0
Childress, Houston	8.5
Fuller, Houston	8.5
Meads, Houston	8.0
B. Williams, New England	8.0
S. Jones, Houston	7.5
Lyons, N.Y. Jets	7.5
Gastineau, N.Y. Jets	7.0
Tippett, New England	7.0
Buck, Cincinnati	6.0
Matthews, Cleveland	6.0
Perry, Cleveland	6.0
Still, Buffalo	6.0
Davis, L.A. Raiders	5.5
Townsend, Denver	5.5
Buchanan, Cleveland	5.0
Grant, Cincinnati	5.0
Grayson, Cleveland	5.0
Hand, Indianapolis	5.0
Jones, Denver	5.0
Pickel, L.A. Raiders	5.0
Rose, N.Y. Jets	5.0
Turner, Miami	5.0

Player, Team	Sacks
Wise, L.A. Raiders	5.0
Woods, Seattle	5.0
Wright, Buffalo	5.0
Clancy, Cleveland	4.5
Mersereau, N.Y. Jets	4.5
Sochia, Miami	4.5
Bussey, Cincinnati	4.0
Cline, Miami	4.0
T. Johnson, Pittsburgh	4.0
Maas, Kansas City	4.0
O'Neal, San Diego	4.0
Smerlas, Buffalo	4.0

## PUNT RETURNS

Player, Team	No.	FC	Yds.	Avg.	Lng.	TDs
TOWNSELL, Jets	35	9	409	11.7	159	1
Verdin, Indianapolis	22	7	239	10.9	173	1
Fryar, New England	38	8	398	10.5	30	0
James, San Diego	28	11	278	9.9	24	0
Edmonds, Seattle	35	8	340	9.7	41	0
Nattiel, Denver	23	0	223	9.7	24	0
Schwedes, Miami	24	7	230	9.6	36	0
T. Brown, Raiders	49	10	444	9.1	36	0
Woodson, Pitts.	33	6	281	8.5	28	0
McNeil, Cleveland	38	6	315	8.3	32	0
Taylor, Kansas City	29	6	187	6.4	16	0
K. Johnson, Houston	30	6	170	5.7	16	0

## KICKOFF RETURNS

Player, Team	No.	Yds.	Avg.	Lng.	TDs
T. BROWN, Raiders	41	1098	26.8	197	1
Holland, San Diego	31	810	26.1	194	1
A. Miller, San Diego	25	648	25.9	193	1
Humphery, N.Y. Jets	21	510	24.3	48	0
Martin, New England	31	735	23.7	195	1
Woodson, Pittsburgh	37	850	23.0	192	1
Edmonds, Seattle	40	900	22.5	65	0
Young, Cleveland	29	635	21.9	34	0
Jennings, Cincinnati	32	684	21.4	198	1
Bell, Denver	36	762	21.2	38	0
Cribbs, Miami	41	863	21.0	44	0
Stone, Pittsburgh	29	610	21.0	192	1
Fontenot, Cleveland	21	435	20.7	84	0
Harris, Houston	34	678	19.9	56	0
Bentley, Indianapolis	39	775	19.9	40	0
Townsell, N.Y. Jets	31	601	19.4	40	0
Palmer, Kansas City	23	364	15.8	23	0

## NFL STATISTICS

## RUSHING

Player, Team	Att.	Yds.	Avg.	Lng.	TDs
DICKERSON, Ind.	388	1659	4.3	141	14
Walker, Dallas	361	1514	4.2	38	5
Craig, San Fran	310	1502	4.8	146	9
Bell, L.A. Rams	288	1212	4.2	44	16
Stephens, New Eng.	297	1168	3.9	52	4
Anderson, San Diego	225	1119	5.0	36	3
Anderson, Chicago	249	1106	4.4	180	12
Morris, N.Y. Giants	307	1083	3.5	27	5
Woods, Cincinnati	203	1066	5.3	56	15
Warner, Seattle	266	1025	3.9	29	10

## RECEPTIONS

Player, Team	No.	Yds.	Avg.	Lng.	TDs
TOON, N.Y. Jets	93	1067	11.5	42	5
Ellard, L.A. Rams	86	1414	16.4	68	10
Clayton, Miami	86	1129	13.1	145	14
Martin, New Orleans	85	1083	12.7	140	7
Smith, Phoenix	83	986	11.9	29	5
Jackson, Philadelphia	81	869	10.7	41	6
Craig, San Francisco	76	534	7.0	22	1
Sanders, Washington	73	1148	15.7	155	12
Carter, Minnesota	72	1225	17.0	167	6
Hill, Houston	72	1141	15.8	157	10
Monk, Washington	72	946	13.1	146	5
Byars, Philadelphia	72	705	9.8	137	4

## RECEIVING YARDS

Player, Team	Yds.	No.	Avg.	Lng.	TDs
ELLARD, L.A. Rams .....	1414	86	16.4	68	10
Rice, San Francisco .....	1306	64	20.4	196	9
Brown, Cincinnati .....	1273	53	24.0	186	9
Garter, Minnesota .....	1225	72	17.0	167	6
Sanders, Washington .....	1148	73	15.7	155	12
Hill, Houston .....	1141	72	15.8	157	10
Clayton, Miami .....	1129	86	13.1	145	14
Green, Phoenix .....	1097	68	16.1	52	7
Martin, New Orleans .....	1083	85	12.7	140	7
Toon, N.Y. Jets .....	1067	93	11.5	42	5



# SCORING

## KICKERS

Player, Team	XP Made	XP Att.	FG Made	FG Att.	Tot. Pts.
NORWOOD, Buffalo	33	33	32	37	129
Cofer, San Francisco	40	41	27	38	121
Anderson, Pittsburgh	34	35	28	36	118
Lansford, L.A. Rams	45	48	24	32	117
Biasucci, Indianapolis	39	40	25	32	114
Zendejas, Houston	48	50	22	34	114
Leahy, N.Y. Jets	43	43	23	28	112
Andersen, New Orleans	32	33	26	36	110
C. Nelson, Minnesota	48	49	20	25	108
N. Johnson, Seattle	39	39	22	28	105
Karlis, Denver	36	37	23	36	105
Bahr, Cleveland	32	33	24	29	104
Lowery, Kansas City	23	23	27	32	104

# NON-KICKERS

Player, Team	Total Yds	Rush Tds	Pass Tds	Misc. Tds	Tot. Pts.
BELL, L.A. Rams	18	16	2	0	108
Dickerson, Ind.	15	14	1	0	90
Woods, Cincinnati	15	15	0	0	90
Brooks, Cincinnati	14	8	6	0	84
Clayton, Miami	14	0	14	0	84
Riddick, Buffalo	14	12	1	1	84
Anderson, Chicago	12	12	0	0	72
Hampton, Miami	12	9	3	0	72
Sanders, Washington	12	0	12	0	72
Warner, Seattle	12	10	2	0	72

# INTERCEPTIONS

Player, Team	No.	Yds.	Avg.	Lng.	TDs
CASE, Atlanta	10	47	4.7	12	0
McMillan, N.Y. Jets	8	168	21.0	155	2

# PUNTING

Player, Team	Net Punts	Yards	Long	Avg.	Total Punts	TB.	Blk.	Opp. Ret.	Ret. Yds.	In 20	Net Avg.
NEWSOME, Pittsburgh	65	2950	62	45.4	71	10	6	40	418	9	32.8
Mosiejko, San Diego	85	3745	62	44.1	86	11	1	56	558	22	34.5
Horan, Denver	65	2861	70	44.0	65	2	0	33	364	19	37.8
Stark, Indianapolis	64	2784	65	43.5	64	8	0	37	418	15	34.5
Roby, Miami	64	2754	64	43.0	64	9	0	35	318	18	35.3
Arnold, Detroit	97	4110	69	42.4	97	7	0	57	483	22	35.9
Gossett, L.A. Raiders	91	3804	58	41.8	91	8	0	47	397	27	35.7
Wagner, Chicago	79	3282	70	41.5	79	10	0	40	447	18	33.4
Buford, N.Y. Giants	73	3012	66	41.3	75	10	2	36	296	13	33.5
Saxon, Dallas	80	3271	55	40.9	80	15	0	37	239	24	34.2

# PASSING

Player, Team	Att.	Cmp.	Pct.	Yds.	Avg.	TD	Pct.	Lg.	Int.	Pct.	Rating
ESIASON, Cincinnati	388	223	57.5	3572	9.21	28	7.2	186	14	3.6	97.4
Krieg, Seattle	228	134	58.8	1741	7.64	18	7.9	175	8	3.5	94.6
Wilson, Minnesota	332	204	61.4	2746	8.27	15	4.5	168	9	2.7	91.5
Everett, L.A. Rams	517	308	59.6	3964	7.67	31	6.0	169	18	3.5	89.2
Moon, Houston	294	160	54.4	2327	7.91	17	5.8	157	8	2.7	88.4
Montana, San Francisco	397	238	59.9	2981	7.51	18	4.5	196	10	2.5	87.9
Lomax, Phoenix	443	255	57.6	3395	7.66	20	4.5	193	11	2.5	86.7
Kosar, Cleveland	259	156	60.2	1890	7.30	10	3.9	177	7	2.7	84.3
Simms, N.Y. Giants	479	263	54.9	3359	7.01	21	4.4	162	11	2.3	82.1
Marino, Miami	606	354	58.4	4434	7.32	28	4.6	180	23	3.8	80.8

Player, Team	No.	Yds.	Avg.	Lng.	TDs
Lee, Minnesota	8	118	14.8	158	2
Hoage, Philadelphia	8	116	14.5	38	0
Jackson, Chicago	8	94	11.8	46	0
Kelso, Buffalo	7	180	25.7	178	1
Byrd, San Diego	7	82	11.7	42	0
Thomas, Cincinnati	7	61	8.7	37	0
Cherry, Kansas City	7	51	7.3	24	0
McKyer, San Fran.	7	11	1.6	7	0

# SACKS

Player, Team	Sacks
WHITE, Philadelphia	18.0
Greene, L.A. Rams	16.5
Taylor, N.Y. Giants	15.5
Nunn, Phoenix	14.0
Harris, Green Bay	13.5
Cofer, Detroit	12.0
Haley, San Francisco	11.5
Jeter, L.A. Rams	11.5
McMichael, Chicago	11.5
Townsend, L.A. Raiders	11.5

# PUNT RETURNS

Player, Team	No.	Yds.	Avg.	Lng.	TDs
TAYLOR, San Fran.	44	556	12.6	195	2
Gray, New Orleans	25	305	12.2	166	1
Townsell, N.Y. Jets	35	409	11.7	159	1
Verdin, Indianapolis	22	239	10.9	173	1
Futrell, Tampa Bay	27	283	10.5	40	0
Fryar, New England	38	398	10.5	30	0
Sikahema, Phoenix	33	341	10.3	28	0
James, San Diego	28	278	9.9	24	0
Edmonds, Seattle	35	340	9.7	41	0
Nattiel, Denver	23	223	9.7	24	0

# KICKOFF RETURNS

Player, Team	No.	Yds.	Avg.	Lng.	TDs
BROWN, L.A. Raiders	41	1098	26.8	197	1
Holland, San Diego	31	810	26.1	194	1
Miller, San Diego	25	648	25.9	193	1
Humphrey, N.Y. Jets	21	510	24.3	48	0
Martin, New England	31	735	23.7	195	1
Woodson, Pittsburgh	37	850	23.0	192	1
Elder, Tampa Bay	34	772	22.7	51	0
Edmonds, Joe, Seattle	40	900	22.5	65	0
Burbage, Dallas	20	448	22.4	53	0
Young, Cleveland	29	635	21.9	34	0

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# 1989 NFL DRAFT

## FIRST ROUND

1. Dallas—Troy Aikman, QB, UCLA; 2. Green Bay—Tony Mandarich, OT, Michigan State; 3. Detroit—Barry Sanders, RB, Oklahoma State; 4. Kansas City—Derrick Thomas, LB, Alabama; 5. Atlanta—Deion Sanders, DB, Florida State; 6. Tampa Bay—Broderick Thomas, LB, Nebraska; 7. Pittsburgh—Tim Worley, RB, Georgia; 8. San Diego—Burt Grossman, DE, Pittsburgh; 9. Miami—Sammy Smith, RB, Florida State; 10. Phoenix—Eric Hill, LB, Louisiana State; 11. Chicago (from L.A. Raiders)—Donnell Woolford, DB, Clemson; 12. Chicago (from Washington)—Trace Armstrong, DE, Florida; 13. Cleveland (from Denver)—Eric Metcalf, RB, Texas; 14. New York Jets—Jeff Lageman, LB, Virginia; 15. Seattle (from Indianapolis)—Andy Heck, OT, Notre Dame; 16. New England—Hart Lee Dykes, WR, Oklahoma State; 17. Phoenix (from Seattle)—Joe Wolf, OG, Boston College; 18. New York Giants—Brian Williams, OG, Minnesota; 19. New Orleans—Wayne Martin, DE, Arkansas; 20. Denver (from Cleveland)—Steve Atwater, DB, Arkansas; 21. Los Angeles Rams—Bill Hawkins, DE, Miami; 22. Indianapolis (from Philadelphia)—Andre Rison, WR, Michigan State; 23. Houston—David Williams, OT, Florida; 24. Pittsburgh (from Minnesota)—Tom Ricketts, OT, Pittsburgh; 25. Miami (from Chicago)—Oliver, Louis, DB, Florida; 26. Los Angeles Rams (from Buffalo)—Cleveland Gary, RB, Miami; 27. Atlanta (from Cincinnati)—Shawn Collins, WR, Northern Arizona; 28. San Francisco—Keith DeLong, LB, Tennessee.

## SECOND ROUND

1. Dallas—Steve Wisniewski, OG, Penn State; 2. Detroit—John Ford, WR, Virginia; 3. Cleveland (from Green Bay)—Lawyer Tillman, WR, Auburn; 4. Kansas City—Mike Elkins, QB, Wake Forest; 5. Tampa Bay—Danny Peebles, WR, North Carolina State; 6. Pittsburgh—Carnell Lake, DB, UCLA; 7. Cincinnati (from Atlanta)—Eric Ball, RB, UCLA; 8. Chicago (from Miami)—John Roper, LB, Texas A&M; 9. San Diego—Courtney Hall, C, Rice; 10. Atlanta (from L.A. Raiders through Washington)—Ralph Norwood, OT, Louisiana State; 11. Dallas (from Washington through L.A. Raiders)—Daryl Johnston, RB, Syracuse; 12. Phoenix—Walter Reeves, TE, Auburn; 13. Denver—Doug Widell, OG, Boston College; 14. New York Jets—Dennis Byrd, DB, Tulsa; 15. New England—Eric Coleman, DB, Wyoming; 16. Seattle—Joe Tofflemire, C, Arizona; 17. Los Angeles Rams (from Indianapolis)—Frank Stams, LB, Notre Dame; 18. New Orleans—Robert Massey, DB, North Carolina Central; 19. Denver (from Cleveland)—Warren Powers, DE, Maryland; 20. Los Angeles Rams—Brian Smith, LB, Auburn; 21. Philadelphia—Jessie Small, LB, Eastern Kentucky; 22. Houston—Scott Kozak, LB, Oregon; 23. San Diego (from N.Y. Giants)—Billy Joe Tolliver, QB, Texas Tech; 24. Minnesota—David Braxton, LB, Wake Forest; 25. Los Angeles Rams (from Buffalo)—Darryl Henley, DB, UCLA; 26. Chicago—Dave Zawatsky, OT, California; 27. Cincinnati—Freddie Childress, OG, Arkansas; 28. San Francisco—Wesley Walls, TE, Mississippi.

## THIRD ROUND

1. Dallas—Mark Stepnoski, OG, Pittsburgh; 2. Green Bay—Matt Brock, DE, Oregon; 3. Detroit—Mike Utley, OG, Washington State; 4. Kansas City—Nasrallah Worthen, WR, North Carolina State; 5. Pittsburgh—Derek Hill, WR, Arizona; 6. Atlanta—Keith Jones, RB, Illinois; 7. New England (from Tampa Bay)—Marv Cook, TE, Iowa; 8. New York Giants (from San Diego)—Bob Kratch, OG, Iowa; 9. Chicago (from Miami)—Jerry Fontenot, OG, Texas A&M; 10. Washington—Tracy Rocker, DT, Auburn; 11. Phoenix—Mike Zandofsky, OG, Washington; 12. Dallas (from L.A. Raiders)—Rhondy Weston, DE, Florida; 13. Denver—Darrrell Hamilton, OT, North Carolina; 14. New York Jets—Joe Mott, LB, Iowa; 15. Seattle—Elroy Harris, RB, Eastern Kentucky; 16. Indianapolis—Mitchell Benson, DT, Texas Christian; 17. New England—Chris Gannon, DE, Southwestern Louisiana; 18. Green Bay (from Cleveland)—Anthony Dilweg, QB, Duke; 19. Los Angeles Rams—Kevin Robbins, OT, Michigan State; 20. Philadelphia—Robert Drummond, RB, Syracuse; 21. Houston—Bubba McDowell, DB, Miami; 22. New York Giants—Greg Jackson, DB, Louisiana State; 23. New Orleans—Kim Phillips, DB, North Texas; 24. Minnesota—John Hunter, OT, Brigham Young; 25. Philadelphia (from Chicago)—Britt Hager, LB, Texas; 26. Buffalo—Don Beebe, WR, Chadron (Neb.) State; 27. Cincinnati—Erik Wilhelm, QB, Oregon State; 28. San Francisco—Keith Henderson, RB, Georgia.

## FOURTH ROUND

1. Dallas—Tony Tolbert, DE, Texas-El Paso; 2. Detroit—Ray Crockett, DB, Baylor; 3. Green Bay—Jeff Graham, QB, Long Beach State; 4. Kansas City—Stanley Petry, DB, Texas Christian; 5. Cincinnati (from Atlanta)—Kerry Owens, LB, Arkansas; 6. Tampa Bay—Anthony Florence, DB, Bethune-Cookman; 7. Pittsburgh—Jerrol Williams, LB, Purdue; 8. Miami—David Holmes, DB, Syracuse; 9. New York Giants (from San Diego)—Lewis Tillman, RB, Jackson State; 10. Phoenix—Jim Wahler, DT, UCLA; 11. Chicago (from L.A. Raiders)—Markus Paul, DB, Syracuse; 12. New England (from Washington)—Maurice Hurst, DB, Southern (La.); 13. Denver—Richard McCullough, DE, Clemson; 14. New York Jets—Ron Stallworth, DE, Auburn; 15. Indianapolis—Pat Tomberlin, OG, Florida State; 16. New England—Michael Timpson, WR, Penn State; 17. Seattle—Travis McNeal, TE, Tennessee-Chattanooga; 18. Los Angeles Rams—Jeff Carlson, QB, Weber State; 19. Seattle (from Philadelphia)—James Henry, DB, Southern Mississippi; 20. Houston—Rod Harris, WR, Texas A&M; 21. New York Giants—Brad Henke, NT, Arizona; 22. New Orleans—Mike Mayes, DB, Louisiana State; 23. Cleveland—Andrew Stewart, DE, Cincinnati; 24. Minnesota—Darryl Ingram, TE, California; 25. Buffalo—John Kolesar, WR, Michigan; 26. Washington (from Chicago through L.A. Raiders)—Erik Affholter, WR, Southern California; 27. Cincinnati—Rob Woods, OT, Arizona; 28. San Francisco—Mike Barber, WR, Marshall.

## FIFTH ROUND

1. Dallas—Keith Jennings, TE, Clemson; 2. Cleveland (from Green Bay)—Kyle Kramer, DB, Bowling Green State; 3. Detroit—Lawrence Peete, DT, Nebraska; 4. Cleveland (from Kansas City)—Vernon Jones, WR, Maryland; 5. Tampa Bay—Jamie Lawson, RB, Nichols (La.) State; 6. Pittsburgh—David Arnold, DB, Michigan; 7. Dallas (from Atlanta through L.A. Raiders)—Willis Crockett, LB, Georgia Tech; 8. San Diego—Elliott Smith, DB, Alcorn State; 9. Miami—Jeff Uhlenhake, C, Ohio State; 10. San Francisco (from L.A. Raiders)—Johnny Jackson, DB, Houston; 11. Phoenix—Richard Tardits, LB, Georgia; 12. Green Bay (from Washington)—Jeff Query, WR, Illinois (Ill.); 13. Dallas (from Denver)—Jeff Roth, DT, Florida; 14. New York Jets—Tony Martin, WR, Mesa (Colo.); 15. Green Bay (from New England through Cleveland)—Vince Workman, RB, Ohio State; 16. Phoenix (from Seattle)—David Edeen, DE, Wyoming; 17. Washington (from Indianapolis)—Tim Smiley, DB, Arkansas State; 18. Chicago (from Philadelphia)—Mark Green, RB, Notre Dame; 19. Houston—Glenn Montgomery, NT, Houston; 20. New York Giants—Dave Meggett, RB, Towson State; 21. New Orleans—Kevin Haverdink, OT, Western Michigan; 22. Denver (from Cleveland)—Darren Carrington, DB, Northern Arizona; 23. Los Angeles Rams—Alfred Jackson, WR, San Diego State; 24. Chicago—Greg Gilbert, LB, Alabama; 25. Buffalo—Michael Andrews, DB, Alcorn State; 26. Cincinnati, Natu Tuagaloa, DT, California; 27. Washington (from San Francisco through L.A. Raiders)—Lybrant Robinson, DE, Delaware State.

## SIXTH ROUND

1. Los Angeles Raiders (from Dallas)—Jeff Francis, QB, Tennessee; 2. Detroit—Rodney Peete, QB, Southern California; 3. Green Bay—Chris Jack, K, Texas-El Paso; 4. Kansas City—Robb Thomas, WR, Oregon State; 5. Pittsburgh—Mark Stock, WR, Virginia Military Institute; 6. Atlanta—Troy Sadowski, TE, Georgia; 7. Tampa Bay—Chris Mohr, P, Alabama; 8. Miami—Wes Pritchett, LB, Notre Dame; 9. Los Angeles Rams (from San Diego)—Thom Kautner, DB, Oregon; 10. Washington—A.J. Johnson, DB, Southwest State; 11. Phoenix—Jay Taylor, DB, San Jose State; 12. New York Jets (from L.A. Raiders)—Marvin Washington, DE, Idaho; 13. Denver—Anthony Stafford, WR, Oklahoma; 14. New York Jets—Titus Dixon, WR, Troy (Ala.) State; 15. Tampa Bay (from Seattle)—Derrick Little, LB, South Carolina; 16. Indianapolis—Quintus McDonald, LB, Penn State; 17. Los Angeles Raiders (from New England)—Doug Lloyd, RB, North Dakota State; 18. Houston—Bo Orlando, DB, West Virginia; 19. New York Giants—Howard Gross, TE, Alabama; 20. New Orleans—Floyd Turner, WR, Northwestern (La.) State; 21. Cleveland—Gary Wilkerson, DB, Penn State; 22. Los Angeles Rams—Mark Messner, LB, Michigan; 23. Philadelphia—Heath Sherman, RB, Texas A&I; 24. Minnesota—Jeff Mickel, OT, Eastern Washington; 25. Buffalo—Sean Doctor, RB, Marshall; 26. New England (from Chicago through L.A. Raiders)—Eric Mitchell, RB, Oklahoma; 27. Cincinnati—Craig Taylor, RB, West Virginia; 28. San Francisco—Steve Hendrickson, LB, California.

## SEVENTH ROUND

1. Dallas—Kevin Peterson, LB, Northwestern; 2. Green Bay—Mark Hall, DE, Southwestern Louisiana; 3. Detroit—Jerry Woods, DB, Northern Michigan; 4. Kansas City—Ron Sancho, LB, Louisiana State; 5. Atlanta—Udra Johnson, RB, West Virginia; 6. Buffalo (from Tampa Bay)—Brian Jordan, DB, Richmond; 7. Pittsburgh—David Johnson, DB, Kentucky; 8. New York Giants (from San Diego)—Dave Popp, OT, Eastern Illinois; 9. Miami—Jim Zdejar, OT, Youngstown State; 10. Phoenix—Rickey Royal, DB, Sam Houston State; 11. New England (from L.A. Raiders)—Eric Lindstrom, LB, Boston College; 12. Washington—Kevin Hendrix, LB, South Carolina; 13. Denver—Mel Brattton, RB, Miami; 14. New York Jets—Stevon Moore, DB, Mississippi; 15. Indianapolis—Ivy Joe Hunter, RB, Kentucky; 16. San Diego (from New England)—Marion Butts, RB, Florida State; 17. Seattle—Mike Nettles, DB, Memphis State; 18. Indianapolis (from N.Y. Giants)—Charles Washington, DB, Cameron (Okla.); 19. New Orleans—David Griggs, LB, Virginia; 20. Cleveland—Mike Graybill, OT, Boston University; 21. Los Angeles Rams—George Bethune, LB, Alabama; 22. Chicago (from Philadelphia)—Richard Brothers, DB, Arkansas; 23. Houston—Tracy Rogers, LB, Fresno State; 24. Minnesota—Benji Roland, DT, Auburn; 25. Chicago—Brent Snyder, QB, Utah State; 26. Buffalo—Chris Hale, DB, Southern California; 27. Cincinnati—Kendall Smith, WR, Utah State; 28. San Diego (from San Francisco)—Terrence Jones, QB, Tulane.

## EIGHTH ROUND

1. Dallas—Charvez Fager, RB, Nevada-Reno; 2. Detroit—Chris Parker, DT, West Virginia; 3. Green Bay—Thomas King, DB, Southwestern Louisiana; 4. Kansas City—Bryan Tobey, RB, Grambling State; 5. Tampa Bay—Carl Bax, OG, Missouri; 6. Pittsburgh—Chris Asbeck, NT, Cincinnati; 7. Atlanta—Paul Singer, QB, Western Illinois; 8. Miami—Pete Stoyanovich, K, Indiana; 9. San Diego—Dana Brinson, WR, Nebraska; 10. Los Angeles Raiders—Derrick Gainer, RB, Florida A&M; 11. Green Bay (from Washington)—Brian Shulman, P, Auburn; 12. Phoenix—John Burch, RB, Tennessee-Martin; 13. Denver—Paul Green, TE, Southern California; 14. New York Jets—Anthony Brown, RB, West Virginia; 15. New England—Rodney Rice, DB, Brigham Young; 16. Seattle—Marlin Williams, DE, Western Illinois; 17. Indianapolis—Kurt Larson, LB, Michigan State; 18. New Orleans—Fred Hadley, WR, Mississippi State; 19. Cleveland—Rick Aeltis, TE, Southeast Missouri State; 20. Los Angeles Rams—Warren Wheat, OT, Brigham Young; 21. Chicago (from Philadelphia)—Tony Woods, DT, Oklahoma; 22. Houston—Alvord Mayes, DB, West Virginia; 23. New York Giants—Myron Guyton, DB, Eastern Kentucky; 24. Minnesota—Alex Stewart, DE, Cal State Fullerton; 25. Kansas City (from Buffalo)—Todd McNair, RB, Temple; 26. Chicago

go—Chris Dyko, OT, Washington State; 27. Cincinnati—Chris Chenault, LB, Kentucky; 28. New England (from San Francisco through L.A. Raiders)—Tony Zackery, DB, Washington.

## NINTH ROUND

1. Dallas—Tim Jackson, DB, Nebraska; 2. Green Bay—Scott Kirby, T, Arizona State; 3. Detroit—Derek MacCready, DE, Ohio State; 4. Kansas City—Jack Phillips, DB, Alcorn State; 5. Pittsburgh—A.J. Jenkins, DE, Cal State Fullerton; 6. Atlanta—Chris Dunn, LB, Cal Poly San Luis Obispo; 7. Tampa Bay—Patrick Egu, RB, Nevada-Reno; 8. San Diego—Pat Davis, TE, Syracuse; 9. Miami—Dana Bliste, LB, Texas A&M; 10. Washington—Charles Darrington, TE, Kentucky; 11. Phoenix—Kendall Trainor, K, Arkansas; 12. Los Angeles Raiders—Gary Gooden, DB, Indiana; 13. Denver—Monte Smith, OG, North Dakota; 14. New York Jets—Pat Marlatt, DT, West Virginia; 15. Seattle—David Franks, OG, Connecticut; 16. Indianapolis—William MacKall, WR, Tennessee-Martin; 17. New England—Darrol Norris, RB, Texas; 18. Denver (from Cleveland)—Wayne Williams, RB, Florida; 19. Los Angeles Rams—Vernon Kirk, TE, Pittsburgh; 20. Chicago (from Philadelphia)—LaSalle Harper, LB, Arkansas; 21. Houston—Bob Mrosko, TE, Penn State; 22. New York Giants—A.J. Greene, DB, Wake Forest; 23. New Orleans—Jerry Leggett, LB, Cal State Fullerton; 24. New England (from Minnesota)—Curtis Wilson, C, Missouri; 25. Chicago—Byron Sanders, RB, Northwestern; 26. Buffalo—Pat Rabold, DT, Wyoming; 27. Cincinnati—Richard Stephens, OT, Tulsa; 28. San Francisco—Rudy Harmon, LB, Louisiana State.

## TENTH ROUND

1. Dallas—Rod Carter, LB, Miami; 2. Detroit—Jason Phillips, WR, Houston; 3. Green Bay—Ben Jessie, DB, Southwest Texas State; 4. Kansas City—Rob McGovern, LB, Holy Cross; 5. Cincinnati (from Atlanta)—Cornell Holloway, DB, Pittsburgh; 6. Tampa Bay—Ty Granger, OT, Clemson; 7. Pittsburgh—Jerry Olasavsky, LB, Pittsburgh; 8. Miami—Deval Glover, WR, Syracuse; 9. San Diego—Ricky Andrews, LB, Washington; 10. Phoenix—Chris Becker, P, Texas Christian; 11. Los Angeles Raiders—Charles Jackson, DT, Jackson State; 12. Washington—Mark Schlereth, C, Idaho; 13. Denver—Anthony Butts, DT, Mississippi State; 14. New York Jets—Adam Bob, LB, Texas A&M; 15. Indianapolis—Jim Thompson, OT, Auburn; 16. New England—Emanuel McNeil, DT, Tennessee-Martin; 17. Seattle—Derrick Fennel, RB, North Carolina; 18. Los Angeles Rams—Mike Williams, WR, Northeastern; 19. Chicago (from Philadelphia)—Todd Millikan, TE, Nebraska; 20. Houston—Tracy Johnson, RB, Clemson; 21. New York Giants—Rodney Lowe, DE, Mississippi; 22. New Orleans—Joe Henderson, RB, Iowa State; 23. Cleveland—John Buddenberg, OT, Akron; 24. Miami (from Minnesota)—Greg Ross, NT, Memphis State; 25. Buffalo—Carlo Cheatton, DB, Auburn; 26. Chicago—John Simpson, WR, Baylor; 27. Cincinnati—Bob Jean, QB, New Hampshire; 28. San Francisco—Andy Sinclair, C, Stanford.

## ELEVENTH ROUND

1. Dallas—Randy Shannon, LB, Miami; 2. Green Bay—Cedric Stallworth, DB, Georgia Tech; 3. Detroit—Keith Karpinski, LB, Penn State; 4. Kansas City—Marcus Turner, DB, UCLA; 5. Tampa Bay—Rod Mounts, OG, Texas A&I; 6. Pittsburgh—Brian Slater, WR, Washington; 7. Atlanta—Greg Paterra, RB, Slippery Rock (Pa.); 8. San Diego—Victor Floyd, RB, Florida State; 9. Miami—Bert Weidner, OT, Kent State; 10. San Francisco (from L.A. Raiders)—Jim Bell, RB, Boston College; 11. Tampa Bay (from Washington through L.A. Rams)—Willie Griffin, DE, Nebraska; 12. Phoenix—Jeffrey Hunter, DE, Albany (Ga.) State; 13. Denver—Richard Shelton, DB, Liberty (Va.); 14. New York Jets—Artie Holmes, DB, Washington State; 15. New England—Tony Hinz, RB, Harvard; 16. Seattle—Mike Baum, DE, Northwestern; 17. Indianapolis—Wayne Johnson, QB, Georgia; 18. Chicago (from Philadelphia)—Joe Nels, DT, California; 19. Houston—Brian Smider, OT, West Virginia; 20. New York Giants—Jerome Rinehart, LB, Tennessee-Martin; 21. New Orleans—Calvin Nicholson, DB, Oregon State; 22. Cleveland—Dan Plocki, K, Maryland; 23. Tampa Bay (from L.A. Rams)—Herb Duncan, WR, Northern Arizona; 24. Minnesota—Brad Baxter, RB, Alabama State; 25. Chicago—George Streeter, DB, Notre Dame; 26. Buffalo—Richard Harvey, LB, Tulane; 27. Cincinnati—Dana Wells, DT, Arizona; 28. San Francisco—Norm McGee, WR, North Dakota.

## TWELFTH ROUND

1. Dallas—Scott Ankrom, WR, Texas Christian; 2. Detroit—James Cribbs, DE, Memphis State; 3. Green Bay—Stan Shiver, DB, Florida State; 4. Kansas City—Bill Jones, RB, Southwest Texas State; 5. Pittsburgh—Carlton Haselrig, DE, Pittsburgh; 6. Atlanta—Tony Bowick, NT, Tennessee-Chattanooga; 7. Indianapolis (from Tampa Bay)—William DuBoise, RB, South Carolina State; 8. Miami—J.B. Brown, DB, Maryland; 9. Washington (from San Diego)—Jimmy Johnson, TE, Howard; 10. Washington—Joe Mickles, RB, Mississippi; 11. Phoenix—Todd Nelson, OG, Wisconsin; 12. San Francisco (from L.A. Raiders)—Antonio Goss, LB, North Carolina; 13. Denver—John Javis, WR, Howard; 14. New York Jets—Willie Snead, WR, Florida; 15. Seattle—R.J. Kors, DB, Long Beach State; 16. Indianapolis—Steve Taylor, QB, Nebraska; 17. New England—Aaron Chubb, LB, Georgia; 18. Houston—Chuck Hartlieb, QB, Iowa; 19. New York Giants—Eric Smith, LB, UCLA; 20. New Orleans—Mike Cadore, WR, Eastern Kentucky; 21. Cleveland—Marlon Brown, LB, Memphis State; 22. Tampa Bay (from L.A. Rams)—Terry Young, DB, Georgia Southern; 23. Chicago (from Philadelphia)—Freddy Weyand, WR, Auburn; 24. Minnesota—Shawn Woodson, LB, James Madison; 25. Buffalo—Derrell Marshall, OT, Southern California; 26. Chicago—Anthony Phillips, OG, Oklahoma; 27. Cincinnati—Scott Jones, OT, Washington; 28. Minnesota (from San Francisco through L.A. Raiders)—Everett Ross, WR, Ohio State.



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QB—quarterback  
RB—running back  
TB—tailback  
HB—halfback  
H-B—H-back  
FB—fullback  
WR—wide receiver  
SE—split end  
FL—flanker  
TE—tight end  
C—center  
G—guard  
T—tackle  
OT—offensive tackle  
DT—defensive tackle  
OL—offensive lineman  
DL—defensive lineman  
E—end  
DE—defensive end  
NG—noseguard  
MG—middle guard  
NT—nose tackle

LB—linebacker  
S—safety  
CB—cornerback  
DB—defensive back  
P—punter  
K—placekicker  
St.—State  
IR—injured reserve  
GP—games played  
GS—games started  
D1—drafted in first round  
R—rookie (not drafted)  
pts.—points  
PATs—points after touchdown  
FGs—field goals  
TDs—touchdowns  
yds.—yards  
att.—attempts  
comp.—completions  
int.—interceptions  
avg.—average

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#### FACTS ABOUT JIM THORPE

Member of the Sac and Fox Indian Tribe.  
Indian name "Watahuck" or Bright Path.  
Born: May 22, 1887.  
1911-1912: All-American football player at Carlisle Indian School.  
1912: Pentathlon and Decathlon Champion in Olympic Games in Sweden.  
1913-1919: Major league baseball player.  
1915-1929: Professional football player.  
1920: First president of NFL.  
1953: Died in Long Beach, Calif. Buried in Jim Thorpe, Pa.  
1956: Named greatest athlete of first half century.  
1982: Olympic medal returned.

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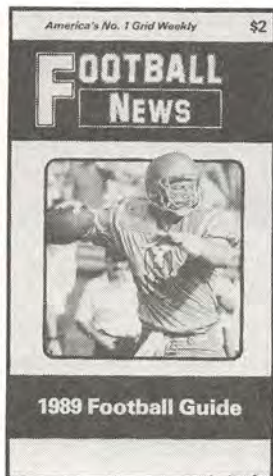
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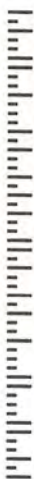
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